



# ***LIVE BIRTHS***



## ***LIVE BIRTHS: State Summary***



## LIVE BIRTHS

### INTRODUCTION

#### **Purpose of Surveillance**

A **live birth** is a birth that shows any sign of life after delivery, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy. Sign of life includes breathing, heartbeat, pulsation of the umbilical cord, definite movement of voluntary muscles, or any other evidence of life, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.

Birth certificates serve as legal records of birth and identification, and provide surveillance data used to monitor fertility trends, population composition and growth, and patterns in prenatal and postnatal conditions that affect the immediate and future health of newborns and mothers. Information monitored through birth surveillance includes adequacy of prenatal care, obstetric procedures, complications during delivery, method of delivery, and infant birthweight. Examination of surveillance data helps identify mothers and infants at high risk of poor outcome, so that research, educational efforts, and services can be effectively targeted to reduce this risk.

#### **Source of Data: Certificate of Live Birth**

The birth section of this report is based on live births that occurred to Louisiana residents during the 1997 calendar year. The *Certificate of Live Birth* is the source document for these data. All original birth certificates flow to the Vital Records Registry in New Orleans.

Data are recorded on birth certificates by birth attendants. Louisiana law requires that the birthing facility or attendant send the original birth record to the Vital Records Registry within fifteen days of birth, and that the identities of persons included in the birth registry be kept confidential.

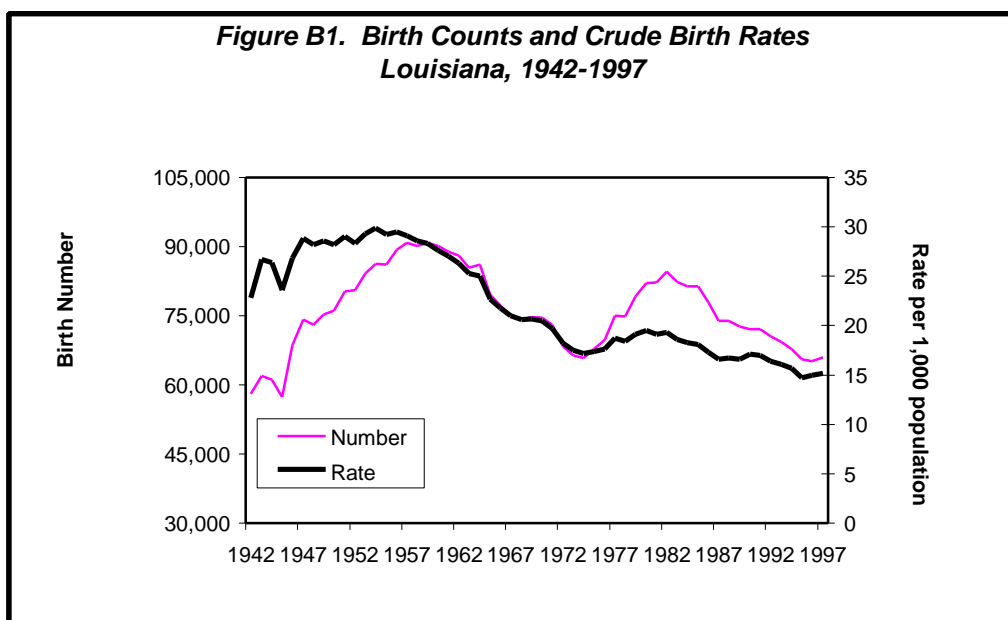
Unless otherwise noted, all statistics reported here are for births to Louisiana residents, regardless of the state in which the birth occurred. The Vital Statistics Cooperative Program, a nationwide system of information interchange among all states and territories, makes possible the reporting of out-of-state births to Louisiana residents.

As the result of the 1991 implementation of Louisiana's Electronic Birth Certificate (EBC) program, approximately 85% of all births are reported electronically by the hospital at which the birth occurred. Matching of infant death certificates with the corresponding birth certificates indicates that birth registration in Louisiana is approximately 97% complete.

## BIRTH COUNTS AND RATES

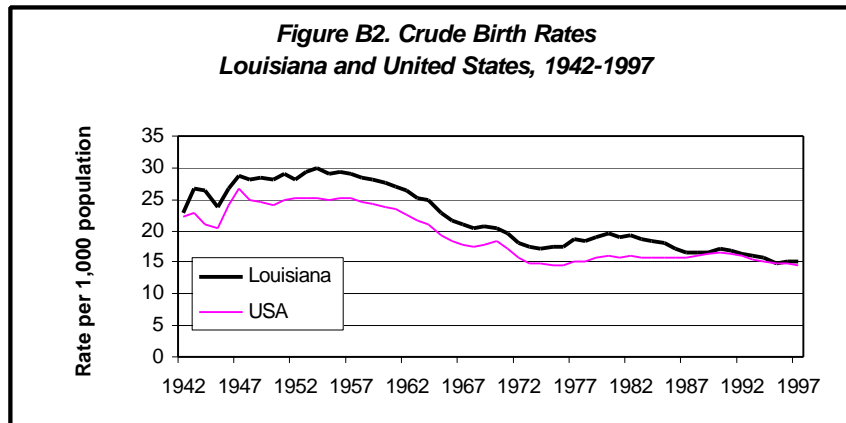
### Birth Counts and Crude Birth Rates

- In 1997, there were 65,947 live births to Louisiana residents, a slight increase from the 65,186 Louisiana resident births in 1996 (up 1.17%) (Figure B1, Table B1). At the national level there was a slight decrease (0.27%) in the number of births between 1996 and 1997 (Figure B2, Table B1).
- Louisiana's 1997 crude birth rate was 15.2 live births per 1,000 population. This rate was similar to both the 1996 Louisiana rate (15.0) and the 1997 national rate (14.5) (Figures B1 and B2, Table B1).



The **crude birth rate** measures the number of live births in a population during a given period of time. It is calculated by dividing the number of live births in a population during one year by the total population, then multiplying the quotient by 1,000. The rate is expressed as the number of live births per 1,000 total population. Birth rates are affected by the number and age distribution of women of childbearing age. Because crude birth rates relate the number of live births to the total population in an area, without regard to the age or sex distribution of the population, they are useful in projecting population changes in the area.

- Louisiana's crude birth rate historically has been higher than the national birth rate, although it has mirrored the national birth rate pattern since the 1960s. **Despite a slight upturn over the past two years, the state's crude birth rate has declined 22.1% since 1980. During this same period, the national rate has declined 8.8%. The trends have resulted in a convergence of the national and state rates during the 1990s** (Figure B2, Table B1).



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics

**Table B1. Birth Counts, Percent Changes, and Crude Birth Rates**  
**Louisiana and United States, 1940-1997**

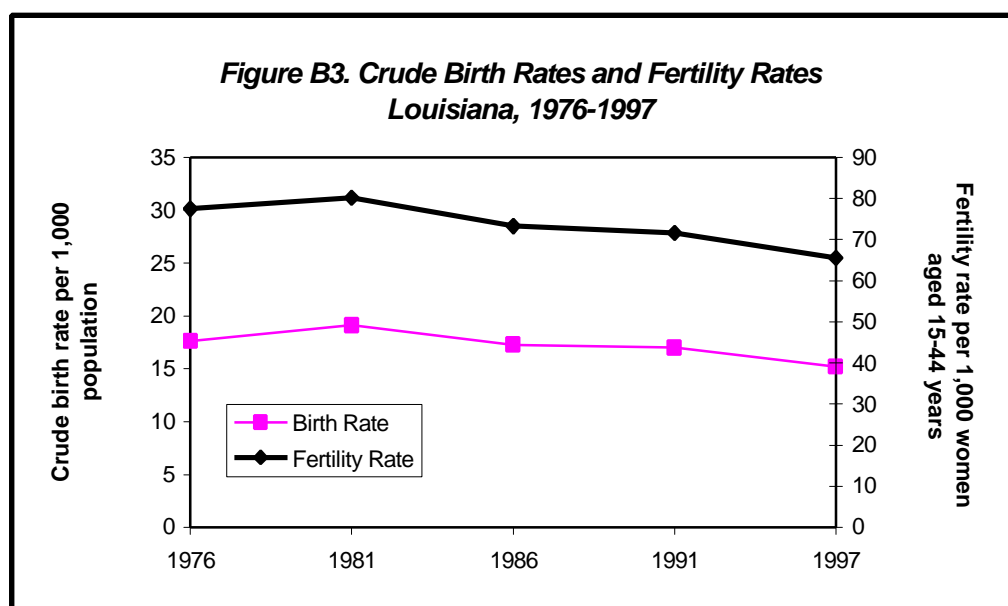
Year	Louisiana			United States		Year	Louisiana			United States	
	Number	% Change from Previous Year	Rate*	% Change from Previous Year	Rate*		Number	% Change from Previous Year	Rate*	% Change from Previous Year	Rate*
1940	50848	4.08%	21.5	3.77%	19.4	1969	74770	0.91%	20.7	2.82%	17.9
1941	54618	7.41%	23.1	5.63%	20.3	1970	74615	-0.21%	20.5	3.64%	18.4
1942	58093	6.36%	22.8	10.58%	22.2	1971	73014	-2.15%	19.7	-4.70%	17.2
1943	62005	6.73%	26.7	3.85%	22.7	1972	68340	-6.40%	18.2	-8.37%	15.6
1944	61050	-1.54%	26.4	-5.32%	21.2	1973	66413	-2.82%	17.5	-3.73%	14.8
1945	57363	-6.04%	23.6	-2.76%	20.4	1974	65880	-0.80%	17.2	0.73%	14.8
1946	68549	19.50%	26.8	19.35%	24.1	1975	67792	2.90%	17.4	-0.50%	14.6
1947	74166	8.19%	28.8	11.90%	26.6	1976	69678	2.78%	17.6	0.75%	14.6
1948	73104	-1.43%	28.2	-4.72%	24.9	1977	74989	7.62%	18.7	5.01%	15.1
1949	75302	3.01%	28.6	0.33%	24.5	1978	74831	-0.21%	18.4	0.20%	15.0
1950	76108	1.07%	28.2	-0.47%	24.1	1979	79183	5.82%	19.1	4.83%	15.6
1951	80256	5.45%	29.0	5.18%	24.9	1980	82114	3.70%	19.5	3.37%	15.9
1952	80476	0.27%	28.3	2.33%	25.1	1981	82167	0.06%	19.1	0.00%	15.8
1953	84108	4.51%	29.3	1.28%	25.1	1982	84531	2.88%	19.3	0.47%	15.9
1954	86225	2.52%	29.9	2.83%	25.3	1983	82416	-2.50%	18.6	1.41%	15.6
1955	86031	-0.22%	29.2	0.64%	25.0	1984	81428	-1.20%	18.3	-1.13%	15.6
1956	89333	3.84%	29.5	2.76%	25.2	1985	81401	-0.03%	18.1	0.83%	15.8
1957	90786	1.63%	29.1	2.14%	25.3	1986	77944	-4.25%	17.3	2.49%	15.6
1958	90175	-0.67%	28.6	-1.26%	24.5	1987	73952	-5.12%	16.6	-0.11%	15.7
1959	90814	0.71%	28.3	0.94%	24.2	1988	73887	-0.09%	16.7	1.41%	16.0
1960	90126	-0.76%	27.6	-0.66%	23.7	1989	72639	-1.69%	16.6	2.63%	16.4
1961	88892	-1.37%	27.0	0.25%	23.3	1990	72121	-0.71%	17.1	3.36%	16.7
1962	88005	-1.00%	26.3	-2.37%	22.4	1991	72080	-0.06%	17.0	2.90%	16.3
1963	85334	-3.04%	25.3	-1.66%	21.7	1992	70502	-2.19%	16.4	-1.14%	15.9
1964	86060	0.85%	25.0	-1.72%	21.1	1993	69328	-1.67%	16.1	-2.69%	15.5
1965	79533	-7.58%	22.7	-6.63%	19.4	1994	67802	-2.20%	15.7	-1.19%	15.2
1966	77223	-2.90%	21.8	-4.10%	18.4	1995	65574	-3.29%	14.7	-1.35%	14.8
1967	75199	-2.62%	21.0	-2.37%	17.8	1996	65186	-0.59%	15.0	-0.21%	14.7
1968	74098	-1.46%	20.6	-0.55%	17.6	1997	65947	1.17%	15.2	-0.27%	14.5

\* Rate per 1,000 population

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics

### Fertility Rates

- **The fertility rate was 65.6 births per 1,000 women age 15-44.** The United States' fertility rate was 65.0 births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 (Figure B3, Table B2).
- Despite a slight increase since 1996, Louisiana's fertility rate has declined steadily since the early 1980s. As with the crude birth rate, the **fertility rate has been declining since the 1980s** in both Louisiana and in the United States (Figure B3, Table B2).



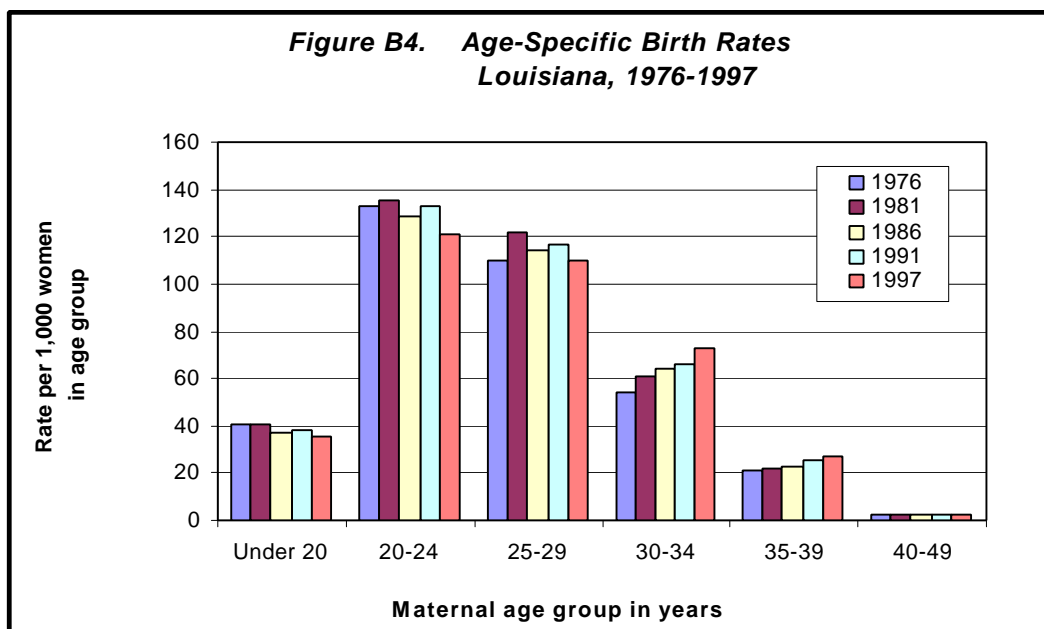
The **fertility rate** relates the total number of births (to women of all ages) in a population to the number of women most likely to bear children - those 15 through 44 years of age. The rate is calculated by dividing the total number of live births during one year by the population of women aged 15 through 44 years, then multiplying the quotient by 1,000. The rate is expressed as the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 through 44 years. Because fertility rates focus only on women in the prime childbearing years, they rates are more useful than crude birth rates in controlling for differences in age distribution among women who give birth. These rates are useful for comparisons of fertility among age, racial, and socioeconomic groups.



## MATERNAL PROFILE

### Age of Mother

- The youngest mother was 11 years of age at the time of birth and the oldest mother was 55.
- Although Louisiana's overall birth and fertility rates have declined since the 1980s, age-specific birth rates have increased for women aged 30-39, and have remained stable for women aged 40 and older. The decrease in overall rates appears to have occurred mostly in women under the age of 30, suggesting a shift toward older women giving birth (Figure B4, Tables B2 and B3). This shift is comparable to the national trend in age-specific birth rates.



The **age-specific birth rate** measures the number of live births in a specific age group during a given period of time. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of births to mothers in a particular age group during one year by the total female population in that age group, then multiplying the quotient by 1,000. The age-specific birth rate is expressed as the number of live births per 1,000 women in that particular age group. Because childbearing occurs most often in the early adult years, a woman's age is a very important factor when examining birth trends. Age-specific birth rates make valid comparisons among age groups possible because the scope of each rate is limited to a narrow age range, thereby greatly reducing the effect that age might have on the number of births being described.

<b>Table B2. Crude Birth Rates, Fertility Rates, and Age-Specific Birth Rates Louisiana, 1976-1997</b>										
<b>Year</b>	<b>Crude Birth Rate*</b>	<b>Fertility Rate**</b>	<b>Age-Specific Birth Rate*** by Maternal Age Group</b>							
			<b>Under 15*</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45 &amp; Older**</b>
1976	17.6	77.5	2.2	76.2	133.1	110.1	54.2	21.1	5.4	0.3
1981	19.1	80.2	2.0	73.9	135.8	121.6	60.8	22.2	4.8	0.3
1986	17.3	73.3	2.4	68.0	128.7	114.3	64.1	23.0	4.0	0.2
1991	17.0	71.6	2.6	75.9	133.1	117.0	66.4	25.7	4.3	0.2
1996	15.0	65.1	2.2	66.6	118.9	107.8	71.6	26.8	5.1	0.2
1997	15.2	65.6	1.8	66.1	120.7	110.0	73.2	27.0	5.0	0.3

\*Rate per 1,000 population

\*\*Rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years

\*\*\*Rate per 1,000 women in age group

+Numerator = all live births to mothers under 15 years of age; denominator = female population 10-14 years of age.

++Numerator = all live births to mothers 45 and older; denominator = female population 45-49 years of age.

### Birth Order

- Since 1990, Louisiana's first birth rate dropped 4%, from 27.8 to 26.7 first births per 1,000 women aged 15-44. During the same time period, the United States rate dropped 8.6%, from 29.0 to 26.5 (Table B3).
- Since 1991, changes in first birth rate trends by the age of the mother have become apparent. Rates for teens aged 15-19 and for young adults aged 20-24 have dropped steadily, while rates for women in their thirties have risen steadily (Table B3).

Table B3. First-Birth Rates* by Maternal Age Louisiana and United States, 1990-1997										
Year	Maternal Age Group									
	Under 15**	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	15-44		
								Louisiana	United States	
1990	2.3	54.6	56.9	36.6	14.3	3.9	0.5	27.8	29.0	
1991	2.5	55.4	56.6	35.7	13.2	3.7	0.5	27.4	28.3	
1992	2.2	55.0	55.0	35.4	13.5	3.9	0.5	27.1	27.8	
1993	2.3	56.0	55.3	34.8	14.2	4.0	0.6	27.2	27.5	
1994	2.3	55.0	54.6	35.3	15.1	4.2	0.7	27.2	27.5	
1995	1.9	53.3	52.6	36.6	15.8	4.4	0.7	27.0	27.3	
1996	2.1	50.8	52.0	36.9	16.9	4.4	0.8	26.7	26.8	
1997	1.8	50.4	51.5	36.8	17.2	4.9	0.8	26.7	26.5	

\*First birth per 1,000 women in specified age group

\*\*Numerator = all live births to mothers under 15 years of age; denominator = female population 10-14 years of age.

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics

The **first-birth rate** measures the number of first births to mothers in a particular age group. The rate is calculated by dividing the number of first births to mothers in a particular age group by the total female population in that age group, then multiplying the quotient by 1,000. It is expressed as the number of births per 1,000 women in that age group. First-birth rates are helpful in assessing changes over time in the age at which women begin bearing children.

Table B4 presents detailed counts of birth order by the age and race of the mother.

**Table B4. Counts of Live Births by Birth Order, Maternal Age, and Maternal Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Birth Order	Race	Total	Maternal Age Group									Percent of All Live Births	Mean Age of Mother	Median Age of Mother
			Under 15	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unk.			
All	All*	65947	294	11931	19535	17005	11509	4762	868	41	2	100	25.5	24.3
	White	37438	39	4982	9839	11114	7801	3113	522	26	2	56.8	26.4	25.7
	Black	27115	251	6799	9391	5486	3355	1497	323	13	-	41.1	24	22.2
1	All*	27121	289	9090	8333	5698	2699	867	139	6	-	41.1	22.9	21.6
	White	16143	39	4137	4945	4267	2010	640	101	4	-	24.5	24	22.9
	Black	10364	246	4840	3224	1246	575	198	34	1	-	15.7	20.9	19.6
2	All*	21094	4	2289	6792	6231	4175	1397	197	9	-	32	26.1	25.6
	White	12749	-	755	3510	4329	3042	981	125	7	-	19.3	27.1	26.7
	Black	7915	4	1498	3193	1763	1010	379	66	2	-	12	24.3	22.8
3	All*	10816	-	477	3039	3117	2733	1231	210	9	-	16.4	27.9	27
	White	5828	-	84	1112	1846	1822	827	132	5	-	8.8	29.3	28.8
	Black	4772	-	392	1882	1218	842	360	74	4	-	7.2	26.1	24.7
4	All*	4085	-	67	1001	1151	1100	637	128	1	-	6.2	28.9	28.6
	White	1810	-	6	236	480	636	376	75	1	-	2.7	30.7	30.7
	Black	2195	-	61	759	652	438	236	49	-	-	3.3	27.4	26
5	All*	1505	-	5	268	457	401	294	75	5	-	2.3	30.2	29.7
	White	522	-	-	29	123	173	158	36	3	-	0.8	32.5	32.6
	Black	957	-	5	238	328	218	129	37	2	-	1.5	28.8	27.7
6	All*	677	-	2	71	210	217	129	45	3	-	1	31	30.6
	White	204	-	-	3	43	79	59	19	1	-	0.3	33.2	32.7
	Black	457	-	2	68	164	132	65	25	1	-	0.7	29.9	28.9
7	All*	300	-	-	19	86	86	80	26	3	-	0.5	32.3	31.9
	White	73	-	-	-	9	20	31	12	1	-	0.1	35.5	35.7
	Black	223	-	-	19	77	64	47	14	2	-	0.3	31.2	30.6
8	All*	125	-	-	3	20	38	48	16	-	-	0.2	34	34.3
	White	27	-	-	-	6	1	15	5	-	-	0	35.1	35.9
	Black	95	-	-	3	14	35	32	11	-	-	0.1	33.7	32.9
9	All*	72	-	-	1	18	18	25	9	1	-	0.1	33.9	33.9
	White	15	-	-	-	3	4	5	3	-	-	0	35.2	34.4
	Black	53	-	-	1	15	13	19	4	1	-	0.1	33.2	32.8
10	All*	31	-	-	-	2	10	13	6	-	-	0	35.7	35.9
	White	4	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	0	38.5	39
	Black	27	-	-	-	2	9	12	4	-	-	0	35.3	35.6
11	All*	26	-	-	1	-	9	11	5	-	-	0	35.5	35.6
	White	5	-	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	0	36.6	37.3
	Black	20	-	-	-	-	9	9	2	-	-	0	35.2	34.8
12	All*	16	-	-	1	1	5	8	1	-	-	0	34.1	34.5
	White	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	0	38.5	37
	Black	14	-	-	1	1	5	7	-	-	-	0	33.4	34.3
13	All*	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	33	33
	White	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	0	33	33
	Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
14	All*	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	0	38.7	39
	White	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	0	41	41
	Black	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	0	37.5	36
15	All*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16 +	All*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	White	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unk.	All*	75	1	1	6	14	17	20	10	4	2	0.1	33.4	33.8
	White	54	-	-	3	8	12	18	7	4	2	0.1	34.8	34.7
	Black	21	1	1	3	6	5	2	3	-	-	0	29.7	27.4

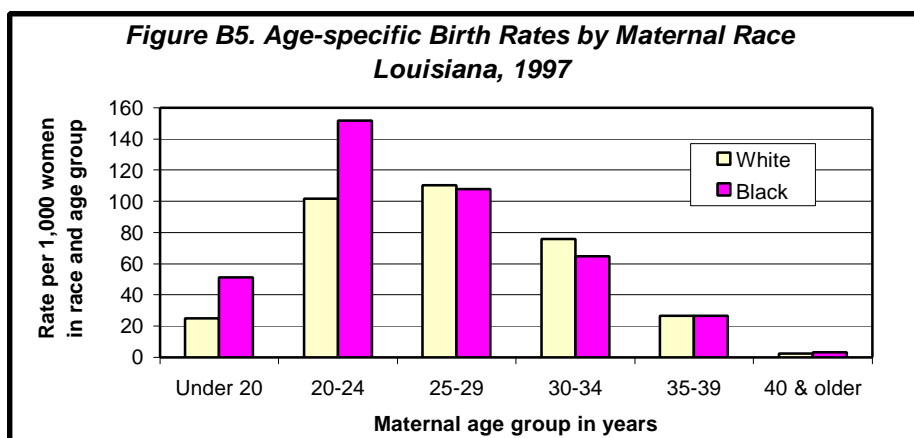
\* "All Races" contains white, black, and other.

**Race of Mother**

- Of the 65,947 births to Louisiana residents, **37,438 (56.8%)** were to white mothers, **27,115 (41.1%)** to black mothers, and **1,394 (2.1%)** to mothers of other races (Table B5).

<b>Table B5. Counts of Live Births by Maternal Age and Race Louisiana, 1997</b>									
<b>Race</b>	<b>Maternal Age Group</b>								
	<b>Under 15</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45 &amp; Older</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
White	39	4982	9839	11114	7801	3113	522	26	37438
Black	251	6799	9391	5486	3355	1497	323	13	27115
Other	4	150	305	405	353	152	23	2	1394
All Races	294	11931	19535	17005	11509	4762	868	41	65947

- Age-specific birth rates for all race groups peaked in the mothers' twenties (Figure B5, Table B6).



- The fertility rate of 77.9 births per 1,000 black women aged 15 through 44 years was higher than the rate of 58.6 in white women (Table B6). The racial disparity in fertility rates resulted from the rate at which births occurred to women under the age of 25, where age-specific birth rates for blacks were much higher than those for whites and other races. After the age of 25, age-specific birth rates for whites and blacks were comparable (Figure B5, Table B6).

<b>Table B6. Crude Birth Rates, Fertility Rates, and Age-Specific Birth Rates by Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997</b>										
<b>Race</b>	<b>Crude Birth Rates*</b>	<b>Fertility Rates**</b>	<b>Age-specific Birth Rates*** by Maternal Age Group</b>							
			<b>Under 15*</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45 &amp; Older**</b>
White	13.0	58.6	0.4	47.6	101.7	110.4	75.9	26.5	4.5	0.3
Black	19.4	77.9	3.9	94.0	151.8	108.0	64.9	26.7	5.9	0.3
Other	19.1	75.8	1.3	43.3	96.9	127.1	128.6	51.4	8.0	0.7
All Races	15.2	65.6	1.8	66.1	120.7	110.0	73.2	27.0	5.0	0.3

\*Rate per 1,000 Population

\*\*Rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years

\*\*\*Rate per 1,000 women in age group

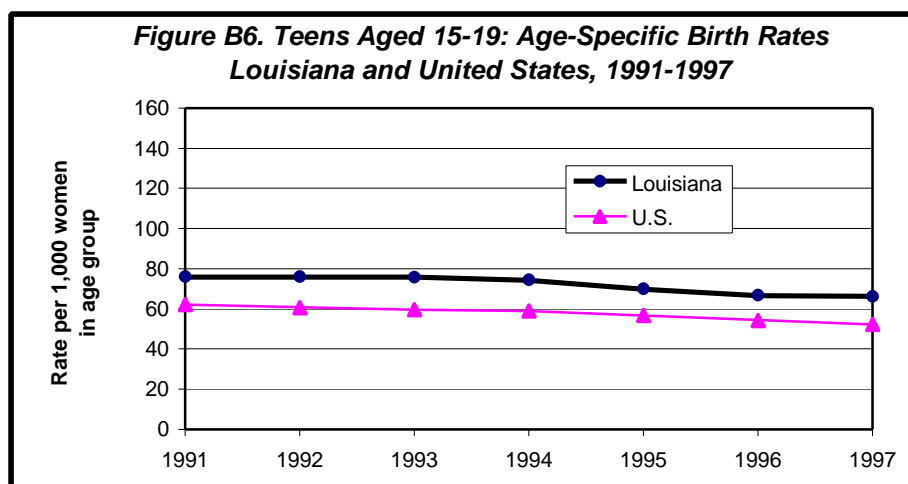
+Numerator = all live births to mothers under 15 years of age; denominator = female population 10-14 years of age.

++Numerator = all live births to mothers 45 and older; denominator = female population 45-49 years of age.

## Teen Births

A **teen birth** is defined as a birth to a woman under the age of 20 years. Despite an overall decrease in teen birth rates over the last two decades, teenage pregnancy continues to be a problem for the nation. When compared with mothers in other age groups, teen mothers are less likely to receive adequate prenatal care and are more likely to give birth to low birthweight infants.<sup>1</sup> These infants are more likely to be hospitalized and go on to have childhood health problems. Nationally, most (76%) births to teens occur outside of marriage, and 25%<sup>2</sup> of teenage mothers go on to have more children within the next two years. These factors, combined with the fact that teenage mothers are less likely to finish high school, contribute to the high proportion of women living in poverty who first gave birth during adolescence. In 1993, of the 3.8 million mothers nationwide aged 15-44 who received welfare or Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), 55% first became mothers as teenagers.<sup>3</sup> In fiscal year 1995, Louisiana spent over \$875 million on programs that support families begun by teens (in the form of AFDC, Food Stamps, WIC, and Medicaid). In contrast, Louisiana spent only \$5.7 million on programs designed to prevent teenage pregnancy.<sup>4</sup>

- There were 12,225 live births to Louisiana residents under the age of 20 years (Table B5).
- The birth rate for teens aged 15-19 years was 66.1 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19. This rate is 26.4% higher than the national rate of 52.3 (Figure B6, Table B7).
- Reflecting the national trend, teen birth rates in Louisiana for the 15-19 years age group have declined during the 1990s (Figure B6, Table B7).



Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics

<sup>1</sup> Lewis CT, Mathews TJ, Heuser RL. *Prenatal Care in the United States, 1980-94* National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat 21(54). 1996.

<sup>2</sup> The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Sex and America's Teenagers*. 1994.

<sup>3</sup> The Alan Guttmacher Institute. *Issues in Brief*. February 1995.

<sup>4</sup> Kreutzer, Tracy A. *Expenditures and Investments: Adolescent Pregnancy in the South. Volume II. 1997*, Southern Regional Project on Infant Mortality. Washington, DC.

<b>Table B7. Teens: Age-Specific Birth Rates* by Maternal Age Louisiana and United States, 1976-1997</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>		<b>United States</b>	
	<b>Under 15<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>15-19 Years</b>	<b>Under 15<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>15-19 Years</b>
1976	2.2	76.2	1.2	52.8
1981	2.0	73.9	1.1	52.2
1986	2.4	68.0	1.3	50.2
1991	2.6	75.9	1.4	62.1
1992	2.3	75.8	1.4	60.7
1993	2.4	75.7	1.4	59.6
1994	2.3	74.2	1.4	58.9
1995	2.0	69.8	1.3	56.8
1996	2.2	66.6	1.2	54.4
1997	1.8	66.1	1.2	52.3

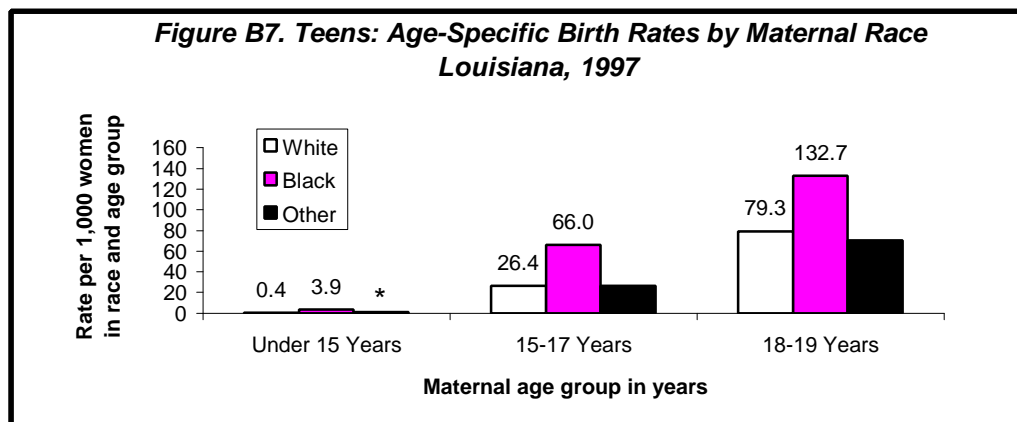
\*Rate per 1,000 women in age group

+Numerator = all live births to mothers under 15 years of age;

denominator = female population 10-14 years of age.

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics

- The black teen birth rate was more than twice that of white teens, at 51.3 versus 25.0 births per 1,000 women, respectively (Figure B7, Table B8).
- The ratio of black to white births decreased as age increased. Black teenagers under the age of 15 gave birth more than nine times as frequently as white teenagers of the same age, while blacks 18-19 years old gave birth less than twice as frequently as white teenagers of the same age (Figure B7, Table B8).



\*rate is unstable due to small number of live births (<20)

<b>Table B8. Teens: Age-Specific Birth Rates* by Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997</b>				
<b>Maternal Age Group</b>	<b>Age-Specific Birth Rates by Maternal Race</b>			
	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>All Races</b>
Under 15	0.4	3.9	-	1.8
15-17	26.4	66.0	26.6	41.9
18-19	79.3	132.7	70.6	101.2
15-19	47.6	94.0	43.3	66.1
All Teens	25.0	51.3	23.3	35.4

\*Rate per 1,000 women in race and age group

"-" indicates rate is unstable due to small number of live births (<20)

- Teenage mothers entered prenatal care in a timely manner less frequently (Table B9) and gave birth to low birthweight infants more frequently (Table B10) than mothers of all ages combined.

<b>Table B9. Teens: Counts and Percents of Live Births to Mothers Entering Prenatal Care in the First Trimester, by Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997</b>						
<b>Maternal Age</b>	<b>Maternal Race</b>					
	<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>		<b>All Races*</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 15	23	59.0	119	47.8	144	49.3
15	130	68.4	254	51.8	387	56.5
16	336	67.5	519	58.2	866	61.5
17	708	73.4	822	60.0	1549	65.5
18	1182	78.0	1232	65.8	2434	71.0
19	1429	79.8	1419	66.0	2887	72.3
All Teens	3808	76.2	4365	62.2	8267	67.9
All Ages	33071	88.7	19207	71.1	53404	81.3

\*\*All Races\* includes white, black, and other

<b>Table B10. Teens: Counts and Percents of Live Births Under 2500 Grams by Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997</b>						
<b>Maternal Age</b>	<b>Maternal Race</b>					
	<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>		<b>All Races*</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Under 15	6	14.6	50	19.9	56	18.9
15	24	12.5	85	17.2	110	15.9
16	51	10.2	155	17.3	210	14.8
17	85	8.8	226	16.4	317	13.4
18	122	8.0	264	14.1	388	11.3
19	142	7.9	295	13.7	446	11.1
All Teens	430	8.6	1075	15.3	1527	12.5
All Ages	2632	7.0	3967	14.6	6721	10.2

\*\*All Races\* includes white, black, and other

### **Education**

- 75.5% of Louisiana's live births were born to mothers with a minimum of a high school education (Table B11).
- 66.7% of black infants, and 82% of white infants, were born to mothers with a minimum of a high school education (Table B11).

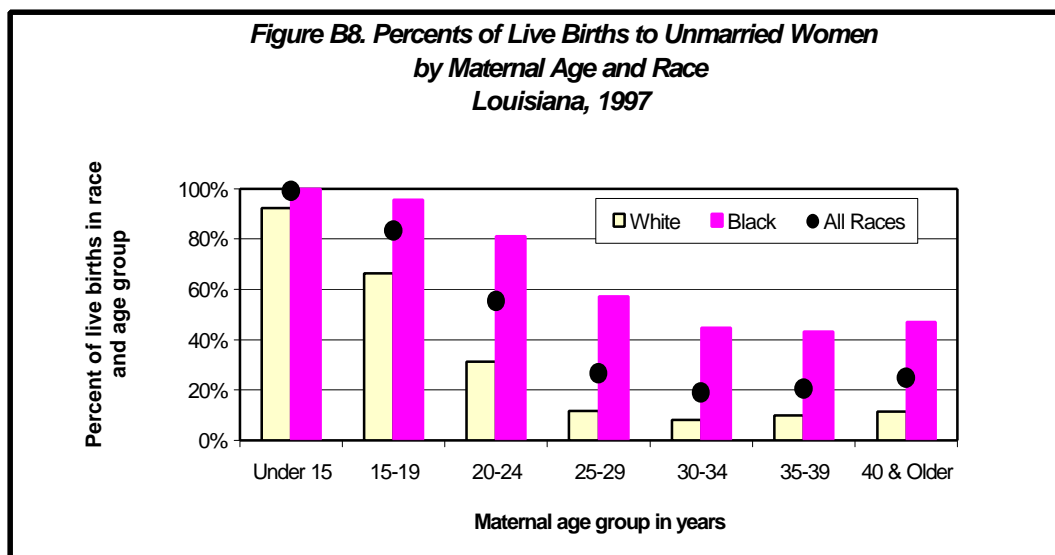
<b>Table B11. Counts and Percents of Live Births by Maternal Education and Race Louisiana, 1997</b>								
<b>Educational Level</b>	<b>Number</b>				<b>Percent* of Live Births</b>			
	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>All Races</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>All Races</b>
No high school	1333	1106	135	2574	3.6	4.1	9.7	3.9
Some high school	5385	7904	250	13539	14.4	29.2	18.0	20.6
High school	14109	10918	461	25488	37.7	40.3	33.1	38.7
Some college	7773	5032	221	13026	20.8	18.6	15.9	19.8
College graduate	8782	2133	325	11240	23.5	7.9	23.3	17.1
Total	37382	27093	1392	65867	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

\*May not sum to 100 due to rounding error

### **Marital Status**

The percent of unmarried women among all women giving birth is influenced by economic, peer, and self-perception issues that affect both the rate at which women marry and the number of married and unmarried women giving birth. Marital status can affect social, human, and financial resources available to children. It often is used as an indicator for important health and social outcomes.

- There were **28,900 live births to unmarried mothers. This represents 43.8% of all live births** in Louisiana (Table B12).
- Very young mothers were the most likely to be unmarried, with **close to 100% of all mothers under the age of 15 being unmarried** (Figure B8, Table B12).
- **Black mothers were unmarried three times as frequently as white mothers were.** The greatest racial disparity in marital status was seen in mothers aged 30-34, where blacks were more than five times as likely as whites to be unmarried (Figure B8, Table B12).





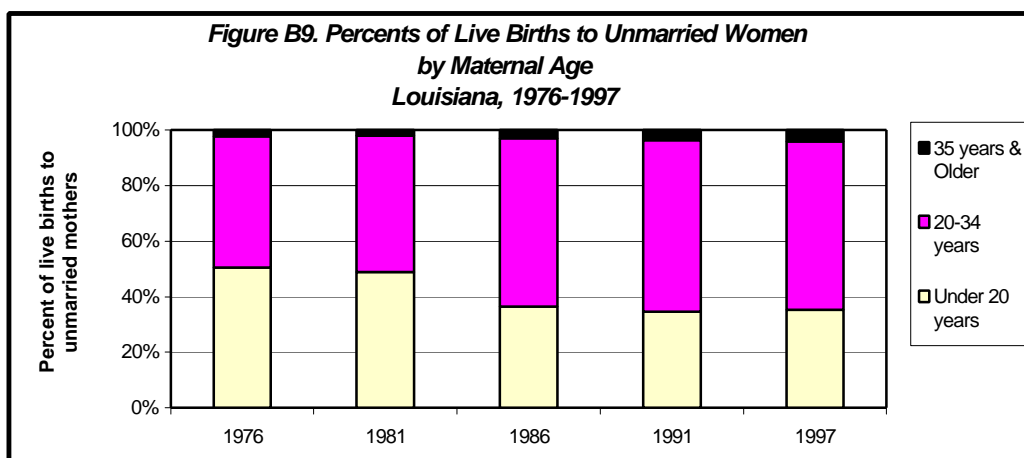
<b>Table B12. Percents of Live Births to Unmarried Mothers by Maternal Age and Race Louisiana, 1997</b>								
<b>Maternal Race</b>	<b>Maternal Age Group</b>							
	<b>Under 15</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40 &amp; Older</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
White	92.3	66.4	31.3	11.6	8.2	9.8	11.5	23.3
Black	100.0	95.7	81.1	57.3	44.8	43.3	47.0	73.1
Other	100.0	73.3	41.6	14.3	8.2	12.5	16.0	25.2
All Races	99.0	83.2	55.4	26.4	18.9	20.4	24.8	43.8

- The annual proportion of live births that occur to unmarried mothers in Louisiana has doubled in the last two decades (Table B13).
- This increase has occurred in every age group, but can be seen most clearly in mothers in their twenties, where the percentage of live births to unmarried women in Louisiana has almost tripled in the past 20 years (Table B13).

<b>Table B13. Percents of Live Births to Unmarried Mothers by Maternal Age Louisiana and United States, 1976-1997</b>														
<b>Year</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>							<b>United States</b>						
	<b>Under 20</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40 &amp; Older</b>	<b>All Ages</b>	<b>Under 20</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40 &amp; Older</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
1976	45.7	18.6	9.3	8.9	11.3	13.8	21.3	28.6	8.9	3.6	3.3	4.6	5.8	10.0
1981	51.6	23.1	12.5	10.4	13.5	16.1	23.6	49.9	20.4	9.7	7.8	9.8	12.7	18.9
1986	65.3	33.5	17.2	14.6	15.9	18.2	30.2	61.5	28.7	13.8	10.4	11.7	14.8	23.4
1991	75.1	45.1	23.7	18.9	20.3	20.5	38.3	69.1	39.3	19.2	14.0	14.6	17.4	29.5
1996	83.0	53.7	26.4	19.7	20.7	25.3	43.4	76.3	45.4	21.9	14.7	15.6	18.4	32.4
1997	83.6	55.4	26.4	18.9	20.4	24.8	43.8	78.1	46.6	22.0	14.1	14.6	17.1	32.4

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics

- Over the past 20 years, there has been an upward shift in the ages of unmarried mothers. In 1976 teenagers accounted for over 50% of live births to unmarried mothers. This year they accounted for 35.4% of these births (Figure B9).



- Although the actual number of births to women age 35 and older is fairly small, the proportion of women in this age group who are unmarried when they give birth has increased steadily over the past 20 years. **In 1976 2.3% of births to unmarried mothers occurred in the 35 and older age group. This year this figure rose to 4.1%, almost double the 1976 figure** (Figure B9). These changes reflect the national trend of older mothers giving birth outside of marriage.

### **Prenatal Care**

Prenatal care is recognized as an important means of providing medical, nutritional, and educational interventions to reduce the risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes, such as infant mortality and low birthweight, and to identify women at high risk for these outcomes. It has been estimated that for every dollar spent on prenatal care, up to \$3.38 can be saved on direct medical costs.<sup>5</sup> Beyond the positive effect on birth outcomes, prenatal care is a vital part of women's health care, as many women (particularly adolescents, minorities, and women of low socioeconomic status) first enter the health care system during pregnancy.<sup>6</sup>

In Louisiana, adequacy of prenatal care is measured by a **modified Kessner index**. This index defines prenatal care as adequate if the first prenatal visit occurred in the first trimester of pregnancy, and if the total number of visits was appropriate to the gestational age of the baby at birth. However, because these measures assess neither the quality nor the content of prenatal care, they must be recognized only as estimates of the adequacy of the care.

- Of the 65,011 Louisiana residents who had one or more live births, 75.4% received adequate prenatal care** (Table B14).
- Black mothers were less likely to receive adequate prenatal care than white mothers were** (Table B14).
- Teenage mothers were less likely to receive adequate prenatal care than older mothers were** (Table B14).

<b>Table B14. Percents of Mothers Delivering Live Births and Receiving Adequate Prenatal Care*, by Maternal Age and Race Louisiana, 1997</b>							
<b>Maternal Race</b>	<b>Maternal Age Group</b>						
	<b>Under 20</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40 &amp; Older</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
White	70.5	80.1	88.7	90.5	88.8	84.4	84.3
Black	53.6	62.2	70.0	72.5	68.5	72.7	63.3
All Races**	60.6	71.4	82.4	84.8	82.1	79.2	75.4

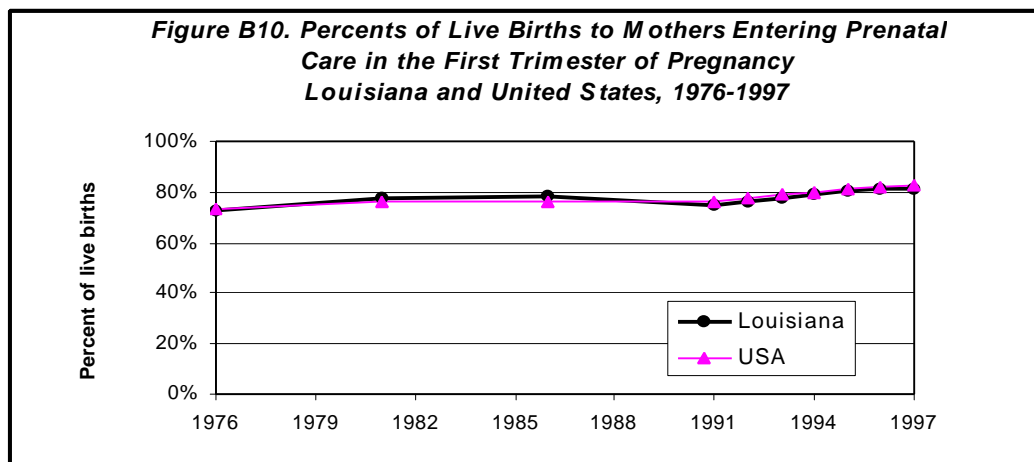
\*Adequate Prenatal Care as defined by a modified Kessner index

\*\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

<sup>5</sup> Institute of Medicine. (1985). *Prenatal care and low birthweight: Effects on health care expenditures* In: Preventing Low Birthweight. (pp. 212-37) Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

<sup>6</sup> Fiscella, K. (1995). *Does prenatal care improve birth outcomes? A critical review.* Obstetrics & Gynecology 85, 468-79.

- In both Louisiana and the United States, the percentage of live births to mothers entering prenatal care in the first trimester has increased steadily since the early 1990s (Figure B10, Table B15).



Source: National Center for Health Statistics

<b>Table B15. Percents of Live Births to Mothers Entering Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy Louisiana and United States, 1976-1997</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>United States</b>
1976	72.9	73.5
1981	77.8	76.3
1986	78.6	75.9
1991	75.0	76.2
1992	76.3	77.7
1993	77.4	78.9
1994	79.2	80.2
1995	80.7	81.3
1996	81.1	81.9
1997	81.3	82.5

Source: National Center for Health Statistics

- Racial differences in timeliness of entry into prenatal care were observed in both Louisiana and the United States. In Louisiana, these differences were slightly more pronounced (Table B16).

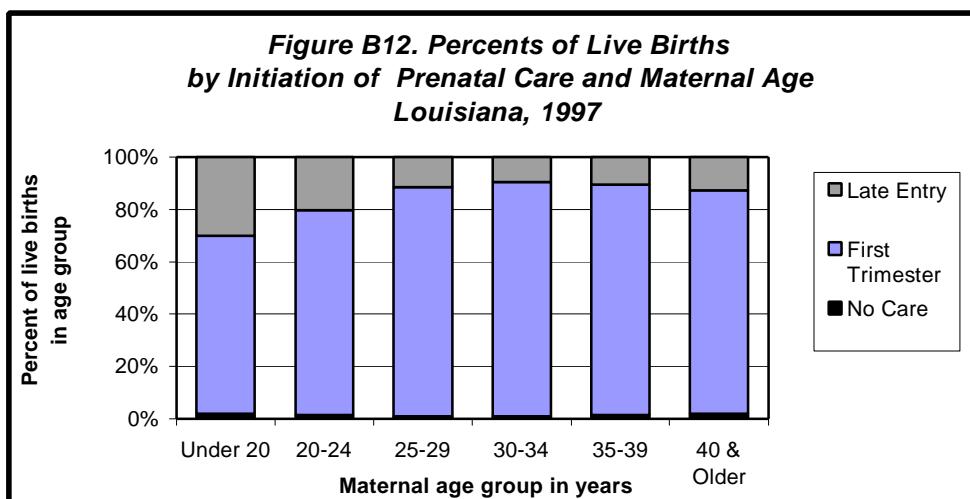
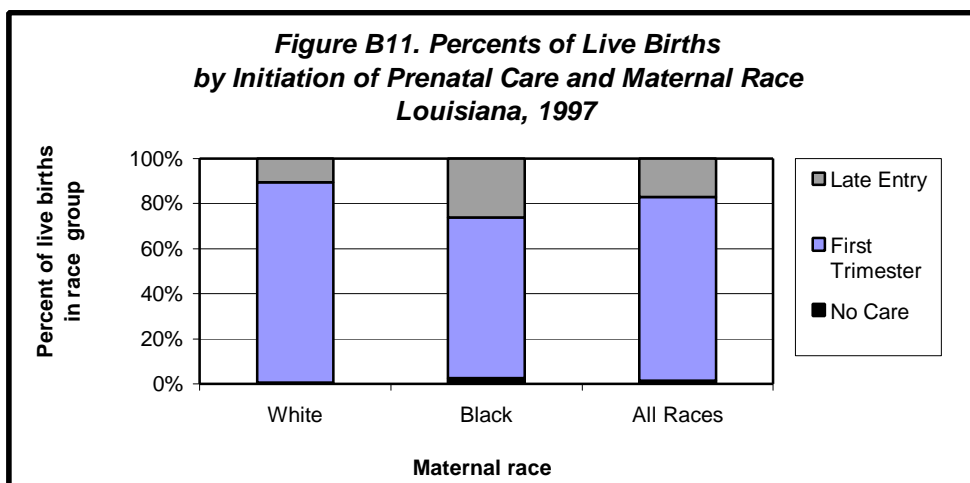
<b>Table B16. Percents of Live Births to Mothers Entering Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy, by Maternal Race Louisiana and United States, 1997</b>		
<b>Maternal Race</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>United States</b>
White	88.7	84.7
Black	71.1	72.3
All Races*	81.3	82.5

\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics

National Center for Health Statistics

- Blacks were less likely than whites to enter into prenatal care in the first trimester (Figure B11, Table B17), and teens were less likely than mothers age 20 and older (Figure B12, Table B17).



Late Entry: Entering in second or third trimester

**Table B17. Percents of Live Births by Initiation of Prenatal Care, Maternal Age, and Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997**

Maternal Age Group	No Care			First Trimester			Second Trimester			Third Trimester		
	White	Black	All Races*	White	Black	All Races*	White	Black	All Races*	White	Black	All Races*
Under 20	1.0	2.8	2.1	76.2	62.2	67.9	19.6	29.3	25.4	3.2	5.7	4.6
20-24	0.6	2.6	1.6	85.0	70.6	78.0	12.4	22.3	17.2	2.0	4.5	3.2
25-29	0.4	2.6	1.1	92.6	76.8	87.3	6.0	17.3	9.8	0.9	3.3	1.7
30-34	0.4	2.6	1.0	94.0	79.1	89.4	4.9	15.6	8.2	0.7	2.8	1.4
35-39	0.6	3.3	1.5	93.4	76.8	87.9	5.2	16.2	8.8	0.9	3.7	1.8
40 & Older	0.7	3.6	1.9	90.7	77.2	85.2	7.7	15.6	10.9	0.9	3.6	2.0
All Ages	0.6	2.7	1.5	88.7	71.1	81.3	9.2	21.9	14.6	1.5	4.3	2.6

\*\*All Races" includes white, black, and other

**Medical Risk Factors for the Pregnancy**

The birth attendant records medical risk factors on the birth certificate by checking any of 16 listed risk factors, none, or other. More than one risk factor can be recorded on a birth certificate. There were 80 birth certificates for which medical risk factor for the pregnancy was unknown.

- **Pregnancy-associated hypertension was the most frequently reported risk factor** among Louisiana residents giving birth, at a rate of 29.2 per 1,000 mothers who had 1 or more live births during the calendar year (Tables B18 and B19).
  - **Black mothers experienced pregnancy-associated hypertension at a higher rate than white mothers did.** The rate among black mothers was 31.4 occurrences per 1,000 black mothers, versus the rate of 28.2 occurrences per 1,000 white mothers (Tables B18 and B19).
- **The second most frequently reported medical risk factor was anemia**, at a rate of 24.9 occurrences per 1,000 mothers who had 1 or more live births during the calendar year (Tables B18 and B19).
  - **Anemia was the most frequently reported risk factor for black mothers**, at a rate of 33.3 occurrences per 1,000 black mothers, compared with a rate of 19.2 occurrences per 1,000 white mothers (Tables B18 and B19).
- **The third most frequently reported medical risk factor was diabetes**, at a rate of 14.9 occurrences per 1,000 mothers who had 1 or more live births during the calendar year. This includes juvenile onset, adult onset, and gestational diabetes during pregnancy (Tables B18 and B19).
  - **White mothers experienced diabetes at a higher rate than black mothers.** The rate in white mothers was 16.1 occurrences per 1,000 white mothers, versus 12.9 occurrences per 1,000 black mothers (Tables B18 and B19).

The highest rates of medical risk factors were reported among the youngest mothers and older mothers.

- **Among teenage mothers (younger than 20 years old at the time of birth), the most frequently reported medical risk factors were** (Tables B18 and B19):
  - **Pregnancy-associated hypertension**, with 30.9 occurrences per 1,000 mothers
  - **Anemia**, at a rate of 29.6 occurrences per 1,000 mothers
  - **Hydramnios/Oligohydramnios**, with 6.7 occurrences per 1,000 mothers
- **Among mothers 35 years and older, the most frequently reported medical risk factors were** (Tables B18 and B19):
  - **Pregnancy-associated hypertension**, with 33.8 occurrences per 1,000 mothers
  - **Diabetes**, at a rate of 33.5 occurrences per 1,000 mothers
  - **Anemia**, with 18.9 occurrences per 1,000 mothers.

**Table B18. Rates\* of Medical Risk Factor of the Pregnancy, by Maternal Race or Age  
Louisiana, 1997**

Medical Risk Factor of the Pregnancy	All Ages			All Races <sup>+</sup>	
	All Races <sup>+</sup>	White	Black	Under 20 Years	35 Years & Older
No medical risk factor noted	804.8	826.8	770.8	800.5	775.2
Hypertension, pregnancy-associated	29.2	28.2	31.4	30.9	33.8
Anemia (HCT <30/HGB <10)	24.9	19.2	33.3	29.6	18.9
Diabetes	14.9	16.1	12.9	5.7	33.5
Hypertension, chronic	6.5	5.0	8.8	2.5	17.3
Previous infant 4000+ grams	6.0	8.1	3.1	-	13.0
Hydramnios/Oligohydramnios	5.5	3.9	7.9	6.7	4.1
Previous preterm or small for gestational age infant	5.1	4.4	6.1	3.1	6.7
Eclampsia	4.6	3.3	6.6	6.6	-
Genital herpes	4.5	5.0	4.0	3.1	5.8
Uterine bleeding	3.9	4.7	2.8	4.2	3.6
Rh sensitization	2.6	3.5	1.5	2.6	-
Cardiac disease	1.6	1.5	1.7	-	-
Renal disease	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.8	-
Incompetent cervix	1.4	1.1	1.8	-	-
Acute or chronic lung disease	0.8	0.8	-	-	-
Hemoglobinopathy	-	-	-	-	-

\*Rate per 1,000 mothers who had 1 or more live births during the calendar year

<sup>+</sup>"All Races" includes white, black, and other

"-" indicates rate is unstable due to low frequency (&lt;20)

**Table B19. Counts\* of Medical Risk Factor of the Pregnancy, by Maternal Age and Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Medical Risk Factor	Race	Total	Maternal Age Group												
			Under 15	15	16	17	18	19	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older
No medical risk factor noted	All	52326	211	538	1131	1905	2725	3192	9491	15543	13727	9047	3621	658	27
	White	30519	30	159	410	804	1236	1463	4072	8025	9216	6305	2437	417	16
	Black	20593	177	376	705	1072	1453	1684	5290	7241	4148	2438	1060	229	10
	Other	1214	4	3	16	29	36	45	129	277	363	304	124	12	1
Anemia (HCT<30/HGB <10)	All	1617	15	21	30	59	108	126	344	553	357	243	84	19	2
	White	709	1	2	15	26	44	52	139	216	169	121	54	8	1
	Black	890	14	18	15	33	62	73	201	335	181	117	30	11	1
	Other	18	-	1	-	-	2	1	4	2	7	5	-	-	-
Cardiac disease	All	103	-	1	1	3	2	3	10	30	28	25	7	3	-
	White	56	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	14	17	17	5	1	-
	Black	46	-	1	1	3	1	2	8	16	11	7	2	2	-
	Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Acute or chronic lung disease	All	51	-	1	-	2	2	3	8	19	9	7	5	3	-
	White	31	-	-	-	2	2	3	7	7	7	4	4	2	-
	Black	19	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	12	2	2	1	1	-
	Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Diabetes	All	970	-	2	7	8	16	36	69	208	241	266	153	31	2
	White	594	-	-	2	2	10	13	27	124	156	175	96	16	-
	Black	344	-	2	5	5	6	22	40	83	81	77	50	11	2
	Other	32	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	4	14	7	4	-
Genital herpes	All	293	-	1	1	8	14	13	37	75	78	71	26	6	-
	White	183	-	1	1	1	6	4	13	38	56	47	24	5	-
	Black	108	-	-	-	7	8	9	24	36	22	23	2	1	-
	Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-

\*This is not an unduplicated count because more than one medical risk factor was noted on some birth certificates. 65016 women had 1 or more live births during the calendar year.

(Table B19 continues on the next page)

Table B19 (continued). Counts\* of Medical Risk Factor of the Pregnancy, by Maternal Age and Race  
Louisiana, 1997

Medical Risk Factor	Race	Total	Maternal Age Group													
			Under 15	15	16	17	18	19	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unk.
Hydramnios/Oligohydramnios	All	357	3	1	20	20	19	18	78	113	91	49	20	3	-	-
	White	144	-	1	3	3	8	4	19	45	47	23	7	3	-	-
	Black	211	3	-	17	17	11	14	59	68	43	25	13	-	-	-
	Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Hemoglobinopathy	All	18	-	1	-	1	2	1	5	7	3	1	2	-	-	-
	White	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
	Black	13	-	1	-	1	2	-	4	4	2	1	2	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hypertension, chronic	All	422	1	2	3	3	13	8	29	83	104	109	74	22	-	-
	White	184	-	-	2	1	5	5	13	32	44	48	38	9	-	-
	Black	236	1	2	1	2	8	3	16	51	60	59	36	13	-	-
	Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Hypertension, pregnancy associated	All	1897	8	28	44	72	110	112	366	555	469	311	161	26	1	-
	White	1041	1	10	13	25	48	55	151	278	300	198	99	13	1	-
	Black	840	7	18	31	47	61	56	213	273	164	110	61	12	-	-
	Other	16	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	5	3	1	1	-	-
Eclampsia	All	296	1	5	8	16	24	26	79	99	68	32	13	3	1	-
	White	121	1	2	2	3	8	10	25	36	35	15	7	2	-	-
	Black	175	-	3	6	13	16	16	54	63	33	17	6	1	1	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incompetent cervix	All	89	1	-	-	-	4	1	5	26	23	21	12	1	-	-
	White	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	13	12	6	-	-	-
	Black	49	1	-	-	-	4	1	5	18	10	9	6	-	-	-
	Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Previous infant 4000+ grams	All	389	-	-	-	2	3	3	8	79	115	115	64	8	-	-
	White	298	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	53	87	97	51	7	-	-
	Black	83	-	-	-	1	2	2	5	26	26	15	11	-	-	-
	Other	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	1	-	-
Previous preterm or small for gestational age infant	All	330	-	-	2	4	18	13	37	99	95	62	32	5	-	-
	White	164	-	-	-	2	4	6	12	45	51	36	16	4	-	-
	Black	162	-	-	2	2	14	7	25	53	44	25	14	1	-	-
	Other	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
Renal disease	All	92	-	1	3	-	6	12	22	38	18	10	4	-	-	-
	White	50	-	-	2	-	3	6	11	21	14	4	-	-	-	-
	Black	39	-	1	-	-	3	5	9	17	4	6	3	-	-	-
	Other	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Rh sensitization	All	172	1	1	4	6	10	10	31	45	41	37	14	3	-	-
	White	131	-	-	3	5	6	9	23	30	33	32	12	1	-	-
	Black	40	1	1	1	1	4	1	8	14	8	5	2	2	-	-
	Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uterine bleeding	All	253	-	2	6	5	13	25	51	68	58	56	18	2	-	-
	White	174	-	-	3	4	7	14	28	49	39	44	12	2	-	-
	Black	76	-	2	3	1	6	11	23	18	18	12	5	-	-	-
	Other	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
Other	All	7408	58	101	181	308	431	485	1506	2232	1655	1255	589	109	4	-
	White	3455	7	20	51	102	163	184	520	957	885	717	326	40	3	-
	Black	3843	51	80	126	204	265	296	971	1257	744	509	249	62	-	-
	Other	110	-	1	4	2	3	5	15	18	26	29	14	7	1	-
Unknown medical risk factor	All	80	1	-	-	2	-	3	5	12	16	20	14	7	4	1
	White	53	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	10	14	13	5	4	1
	Black	27	1	-	-	2	-	1	3	8	6	6	1	2	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*This is not an unduplicated count because more than one medical risk factor was noted on some birth certificates. 65016 women had 1 or more live births during the calendar year.

**Tobacco and Alcohol Use During Pregnancy**

Usage of tobacco and alcohol during pregnancy, as reported by the mother at the time of birth, is recorded on the birth certificate. Because this information depends on the mother's recall, it is subject to inaccuracies in reporting.

- 10.3% of mothers who provided information reported using tobacco during pregnancy, and 0.6% reported using alcohol during pregnancy (Table B20).
- Among whites, 14.2% reported using tobacco, and 0.5% reported using alcohol.
- Among blacks, tobacco and alcohol use were reported to be 5.1% and 0.9%, respectively.

<b>Table B20. Counts of Mothers by Use of Tobacco and Alcohol during Pregnancy, Maternal Age, and Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997</b>																
<b>Substance Usage</b>	<b>Race</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Maternal Age Group</b>													
			<b>Under 15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45 &amp; Older</b>	<b>Unk.</b>
No tobacco use	All	58211	276	653	1287	2110	2986	3519	10555	17143	15136	10178	4147	745	31	-
	White	31596	29	164	392	756	1141	1418	3871	7980	9689	6846	2709	453	19	-
	Black	25304	243	484	875	1329	1807	2055	6550	8889	5056	2996	1291	269	10	-
	Other	1311	4	5	20	25	38	46	134	274	391	336	147	23	2	-
Tobacco use	All	6661	15	32	118	243	421	440	1254	2132	1585	1075	500	95	4	1
	White	5229	10	26	104	205	365	367	1067	1741	1251	776	332	50	1	1
	Black	1360	5	6	14	32	52	68	172	362	322	285	166	45	3	-
	Other	72	-	-	-	6	4	5	15	29	12	14	2	-	-	-
Unknown tobacco use	All	144	1	3	-	2	5	9	19	32	30	28	22	8	3	1
	White	89	-	1	-	2	5	5	13	14	17	21	15	5	3	1
	Black	53	1	2	-	-	-	4	6	17	13	7	6	3	-	-
	Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
No alcohol use	All	64465	290	684	1403	2343	3400	3950	11780	19189	16615	11151	4581	824	35	-
	White	36655	39	190	494	958	1503	1781	4926	9686	10906	7578	3009	491	20	-
	Black	26430	247	489	889	1354	1855	2118	6705	9200	5307	3225	1423	310	13	-
	Other	1380	4	5	20	31	42	51	149	303	402	348	149	23	2	-
Alcohol use	All	411	1	1	1	8	9	10	29	82	107	105	69	17	-	1
	White	178	-	-	1	3	6	4	14	36	34	46	35	12	-	1
	Black	230	1	1	-	5	3	6	15	46	72	57	34	5	-	-
	Other	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
Unknown alcohol use	All	140	1	3	1	4	3	8	19	36	29	25	19	7	3	1
	White	81	-	1	1	2	2	5	11	13	17	19	12	5	3	1
	Black	57	1	2	-	2	1	3	8	22	12	6	6	2	-	-
	Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-



## NEWBORN PROFILE

**Sex**

- Louisiana's *male/female birth ratio* was 1.038, which means 1,038 males were born for every 1,000 females. By race, the male/female ratios were 1.038 for whites, 1.036 for blacks, and 1.103 for other races (Table B21).

<b>Table B21. Counts of Live Births by Infant Sex and Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997</b>				
<b>Infant Sex</b>	<b>Maternal Race</b>			
	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>All Races</b>
Male	19068	13797	731	33596
Female	18370	13318	663	32351
Male/Female Ratio	1.038	1.036	1.103	1.038

**Birthweight**

A **low birthweight** infant is defined as an infant weighing less than 2500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) at birth. Low birthweight is a major cause of infant mortality, with more than three-quarters of infant deaths caused by babies born too small or too early.<sup>7</sup> Low birthweight has been linked to several preventable factors, including lack of prenatal care, maternal smoking, use of alcohol and other drugs, and pregnancy before the age of 18 years. Other risk factors for low birthweight include low socioeconomic level, low maternal weight gain, low pregnancy weight, first births, female sex, short maternal stature, prior low birthweight births, maternal illnesses, fetal infections, and a variety of metabolic and genetic disorders.

Low birthweight infants who survive are more likely than normal weight infants to have brain damage, lung and liver disease, subnormal growth, developmental problems, and other adverse health conditions. The effects of low birthweight follow these infants throughout life, through a greater likelihood of learning disorders, attention disorders, and developmental impairments.<sup>8</sup> A higher proportion of low birthweight infants go on to be enrolled in special education classes than their normal birthweight counterparts.<sup>9</sup>

- **6,721 (10.2% of total live births) of the infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 2500 grams. In the United States, 7.5% of infants born in the United States were low birthweight (Tables B22 and B26).**

<sup>7</sup> Paneth NS. (1995) *The problem of low weight* In *The Future of Children*, Low Birth Weight (19-34).

<sup>8</sup> Institute of Medicine. (1985). *The significance of low birthweight* In: Preventing low birthweight. (pp. 21-45). Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

<sup>9</sup> Hack M, Klein NK, Taylor HG. *Long-term developmental outcomes of low birth weight infants* *The Future of Children*, Low Birth Weight 1995;5:19-34.

- In recent years, both Louisiana and the nation have seen an increase in the percentage of infants born with low birthweight (Table B22).

<b>Table B22. Percents of Live Births Less Than 2500 Grams Louisiana and United States, 1992-1997</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>United States</b>
1992	9.4	7.1
1993	9.4	7.2
1994	9.6	7.3
1995	9.7	7.3
1996	9.9	7.4
1997	10.2	7.5

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics

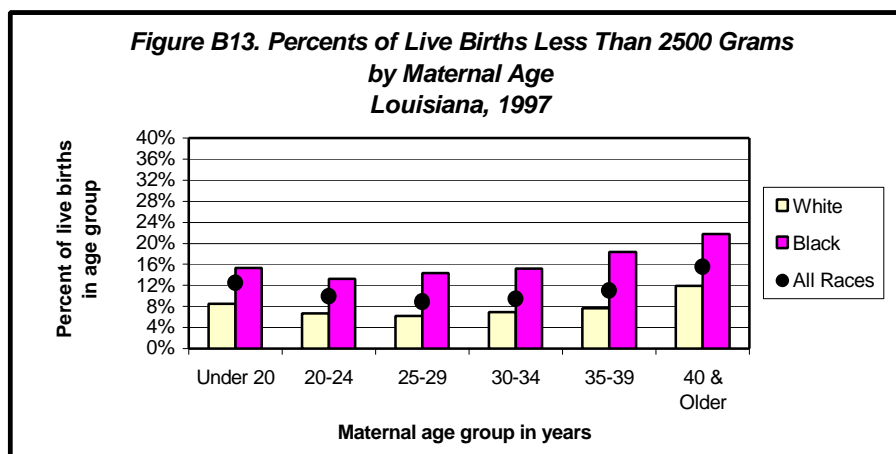
- Black mothers gave birth to infants of low birthweight more than twice as frequently as white mothers, at 14.6% compared with 7.0% of live births. This discrepancy held true for all age groups (Figure B13, Tables B23 and B24). This relationship between low birthweight and race also is seen at the national level (Table B23).

<b>Table B23. Percents of Live Births Less Than 2500 Grams by Maternal Race Louisiana and United States, 1997</b>			
<b>Location</b>	<b>Maternal Race</b>		
	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>All Races*</b>
Louisiana	7.0	14.6	10.2
United States	6.5	13.0	7.5

\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

Source: Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics

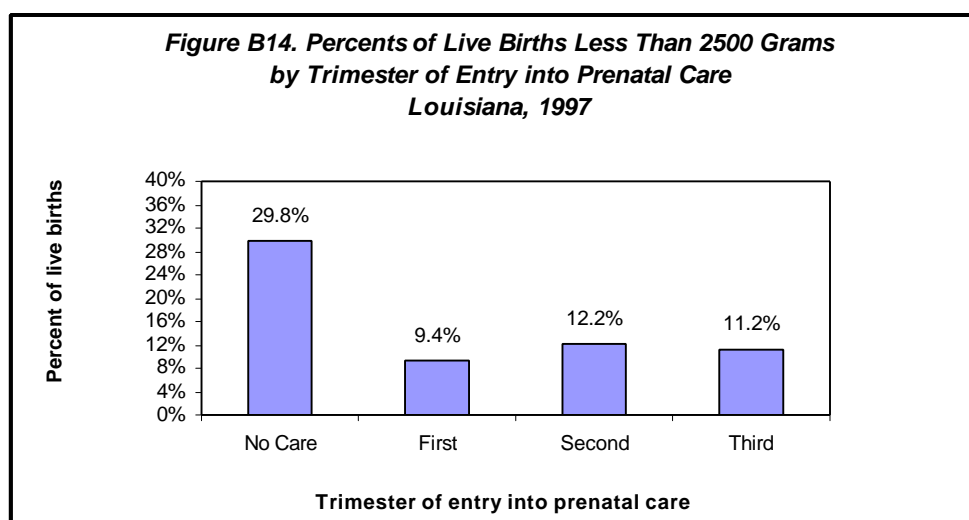
- Among the maternal age groups, mothers aged 40 and older had the highest percentage of low birthweight babies (15.5% of live births) (Figure B13, Table B24).



<b>Table B24. Percents of Live Births Less Than 2500 Grams, by Maternal Age Louisiana, 1997</b>							
<b>Maternal Race</b>	<b>Maternal Age Group</b>						
	<b>Under 20</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40 &amp; Older</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
White	8.6	6.7	6.2	6.9	7.7	11.9	7.0
Black	15.2	13.3	14.3	15.2	18.3	21.7	14.6
All Races*	12.5	9.9	8.9	9.4	11.0	15.5	10.2

\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

- Almost 30% of births to mothers who had no prenatal care were low birthweight (Figure B14).
- For mothers who received prenatal care, trimester of entry into prenatal care did not impact the percent of low weight births. Occurrence of low birthweight births among mothers who received prenatal care was approximately 10% for all three trimesters of entry into prenatal care (Figure B14).



Infants weighing less than 1500 grams at birth (3 lbs. 5 oz.) are considered to be **very low birthweight** and are at much greater risk of mortality and long-term disability than higher weight infants. Although recent medical advances have greatly reduced the risk of death for smaller infants, the risk of early death for a very low birthweight infant is about 65 times that of infants who weigh at least 1500 grams.<sup>10</sup>

- 2.1% of infants born to Louisiana residents weighed less than 1500 grams (Table B25), as compared with 1.4% of infants born to United States residents.

<sup>10</sup> Ventura SJ, Martin JA, Curtin SC, Mathews TJ. *Report of final natality statistics, 1995* Monthly vital statistics report; vol 45 no 11, supp. Hyattsville, Maryland: National Center for Health Statistics. 1997.

- As with infants weighing less than 2500 grams, the frequency of very low birthweight births differed by race and age group.
- **Black mothers gave birth to very low birthweight infants three times as frequently as white mothers,** at 3.4% compared with 1.2% of live births (Table B25).
- **Infants born to young mothers and older mothers of all races were more frequently very low birthweight.** Of all infants born to mothers under the age of 20, 2.3% were very low birthweight, and 2.6% of infants born to mothers aged 35-39 weighed less than 1500 grams (Table B25).

<b>Table B25. Percents of Live Births Less Than 1500 Grams, by Maternal Age Louisiana, 1997</b>							
<b>Maternal Race</b>	<b>Maternal Age Group</b>						
	<b>Under 20</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40 &amp; Older</b>	<b>All Ages</b>
White	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.6	2.2	1.2
Black	3.1	3.1	3.5	3.9	4.9	2.4	3.4
All Races*	2.3	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.6	2.2	2.1

\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

Tables B26 through B28 present detailed breakdowns of birthweight by live birth order, maternal race and age, and infant sex.

<b>Table B26. Counts of Live Births by Live Birth Order and Birthweight Louisiana, 1997</b>												
<b>Birth Order</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Birthweight In Grams</b>								<b>Weight not stated</b>	<b>Births Under 2500 Grams</b>	<b>Percent of Total Live Births</b>
		<b>999 and less</b>	<b>1000 through 1999</b>	<b>2000 through 2499</b>	<b>2500 through 2999</b>	<b>3000 through 3499</b>	<b>3500 through 3999</b>	<b>4000 through 4499</b>	<b>4500 and over</b>			
All	65947	692	2012	4017	13020	24988	16350	4132	726	10	6721	10.2
1	27121	296	803	1645	5540	10602	6505	1503	223	4	2744	10.1
2	21094	191	567	1102	3880	8036	5576	1471	269	2	1860	8.8
3	10816	108	318	652	2125	4004	2727	732	146	4	1078	10.0
4	4085	47	166	326	874	1426	946	250	50	-	539	13.2
5	1505	26	75	155	316	495	327	95	16	-	256	17.0
6	677	10	35	66	134	227	151	41	13	-	111	16.4
7	300	9	19	29	71	89	61	18	4	-	57	19.0
8	125	3	8	17	29	36	21	8	3	-	28	22.4
9	72	-	7	10	14	24	12	5	-	-	17	23.6
10	31	1	5	2	8	9	3	2	1	-	8	25.8
11	26	-	1	1	6	11	5	2	-	-	2	7.7
12	16	-	1	1	3	5	3	2	1	-	2	12.5
13	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
14	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	0
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unk.	75	1	7	11	18	23	12	3	-	-	19	25.3

**Table B27. Counts of Live Births by Birthweight, Maternal Age, and Maternal Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Maternal Race and Age	Total	Birthweight											Weight not stated
		499 and less	500- 749 grams	750- 999 grams	1000- 1499 grams	1500- 1999 grams	2000- 2499 grams	2500- 2999 grams	3000- 3499 grams	3500- 3999 grams	4000- 4499 grams	4500 and over	
<b>All races*</b>	<b>65947</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>1343</b>	<b>4017</b>	<b>13020</b>	<b>24988</b>	<b>16350</b>	<b>4132</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>10</b>
Under 15 years	294	1	1	2	6	14	32	91	106	33	4	4	-
15-19 years	11931	31	52	49	144	302	893	2943	4729	2289	441	55	3
20-24 years	19535	55	78	83	178	355	1181	4098	7665	4638	1043	160	1
25-29 years	17005	42	54	71	135	313	899	3017	6442	4596	1207	226	3
30-34 years	11509	30	45	38	121	223	626	1937	4088	3245	969	184	3
35-39 years	4762	8	22	23	72	108	293	757	1667	1333	396	83	-
40-44 years	868	3	1	2	12	26	89	164	277	210	71	13	-
45 years & over	41	-	-	1	1	2	4	13	13	5	1	1	-
Not stated	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>White</b>	<b>37438</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>1660</b>	<b>6030</b>	<b>14068</b>	<b>11065</b>	<b>3099</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>6</b>
Under 15 years	39	-	-	-	-	4	2	8	16	9	-	-	-
15-19 years	4982	2	9	9	43	90	271	983	1999	1237	297	41	1
20-24 years	9839	7	16	22	57	135	427	1659	3815	2870	727	103	1
25-29 years	11114	14	21	23	48	140	446	1725	4197	3374	947	176	3
30-34 years	7801	6	15	20	58	112	331	1145	2776	2429	765	143	1
35-39 years	3113	2	6	7	34	47	143	424	1078	994	311	67	-
40-44 years	522	1	-	2	7	13	37	77	178	147	52	8	-
45 years & over	26	-	-	1	1	-	3	9	8	4	-	-	-
Not stated	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
<b>Black</b>	<b>27115</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>2270</b>	<b>6690</b>	<b>10351</b>	<b>4964</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>4</b>
Under 15 years	251	1	1	2	6	10	30	81	89	24	4	3	-
15-19 years	6799	29	42	40	100	208	606	1920	2672	1026	141	13	2
20-24 years	9391	48	62	61	120	219	737	2378	3712	1698	302	54	-
25-29 years	5486	27	33	47	83	166	431	1207	2079	1125	240	48	-
30-34 years	3355	24	30	18	60	105	274	712	1176	733	185	36	2
35-39 years	1497	5	16	16	37	58	142	308	525	300	74	16	-
40-44 years	323	2	1	-	5	13	49	81	93	57	17	5	-
45 years & over	13	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	5	1	1	-	-
Not stated	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*"All races" includes white, black, and other

**Table B28. Counts and Percents\* of Live Births by Birthweight, Infant Sex, and Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997**

Weight In Grams	All Races		White				Black				Other			
	Total	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent	Male	Percent	Female	Percent
Under 500	170	0.26	17	0.09	15	0.08	61	0.44	75	0.56	-	-	2	0.3
500-749	253	0.38	35	0.18	32	0.17	84	0.61	101	0.76	-	-	1	0.2
750-999	269	0.41	53	0.28	31	0.17	88	0.64	96	0.72	1	0.14	-	-
1000-1499	669	1.01	116	0.61	132	0.72	223	1.62	188	1.41	4	0.55	6	0.9
1500-1999	1343	2.04	259	1.36	282	1.54	355	2.57	426	3.2	10	1.37	11	1.7
2000-2499	4017	6.09	739	3.88	921	5.01	1011	7.33	1259	9.45	48	6.57	39	5.9
2500-2999	13020	19.74	2640	13.85	3390	18.45	3056	22.15	3634	27.29	134	18.33	166	25.0
3000-3499	24988	37.89	6861	35.98	7207	39.23	5307	38.46	5044	37.87	302	41.31	267	40.3
3500-3999	16350	24.79	6061	31.79	5004	27.24	2888	20.93	2076	15.59	177	24.21	144	21.7
4000-4499	4132	6.27	1927	10.11	1172	6.38	595	4.31	369	2.77	45	6.16	24	3.6
4500+	726	1.1	356	1.87	182	0.99	127	0.92	48	0.36	10	1.37	3	0.4
Unknown	10	0.02	4	0.02	2	0.01	2	0.01	2	0.02	-	-	-	-
Total	65947	100	19068	100	18370	100	13797	100	13318	100	731	100	663	100

\*Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

### **Gestational Age**

**Gestational age** is the interval between the first day of the mother's last normal menstrual period and the date of birth. It is recorded on Louisiana's birth certificates by the physician attending the birth. Physicians use several different methods to estimate gestational age, including computing the interval between the first day of the mother's last normal menstrual period (LMP) and the date of birth, or determining a clinical estimate based on examination of the newborn. Standardized methods of measurement for determination of gestational age are difficult, especially among at-risk pregnancies in which minimal or no prenatal ascertainment have been made.

Louisiana birth certificates record both the "Date Last Normal Menses Began" and the "Clinical Estimate of Gestation." LMP is subject to error from imperfect maternal recall or misidentification of the last normal menstrual period because of postconception bleeding, delayed ovulation, or intervening early miscarriage. Therefore, the physician's clinical estimate of gestation is used to determine gestational age in this report.

A birth is considered **preterm** if the gestational age at delivery is less than 37 weeks.

There were 131 infants for whom no estimate of gestational age was recorded.

- **12.0% of all live births in Louisiana were estimated to be preterm** (Table B29).
- **Black mothers delivered preterm infants almost twice as frequently as white mothers** (15.9% versus 8.9% of live births, respectively) (Table B29).
- **Mothers age 40 and older delivered preterm infants more frequently than any other age groups** (16.4% of live births) (Table B29).

**Table B29. Counts and Percents of Preterm Live Births (less than 37 weeks), by Maternal Age and Race Louisiana, 1997**

Maternal Race	Maternal Age Group													
	Under 20		20-24		25-29		30-34		35-39		40 & Older		All Ages	
	Num	Percent	Num	Percent	Num	Percent	Num	Percent	Num	Percent	Num	Percent	Num	Percent
White	499	10.0	838	8.6	914	8.3	681	8.7	291	9.6	73	13.8	3296	8.9
Black	1139	16.0	1323	14.9	850	16.3	554	16.4	277	18.0	60	18.5	4203	15.9
All Races*	1664	13.7	2177	11.7	1798	11.1	1270	11.3	592	13.0	140	16.4	7641	12.0

\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

### **Multiple Births**

- 64,053 live births (97.1% of total live births) were part of a single delivery.
- 1,801 live births (2.7% of total live births) were part of a twin delivery, 72 (0.1%) were part of a triplet delivery, 16 live births were part of a quadruplet delivery, and 5 live births were part of a quintuplet delivery.

### **Apgar Score**

The **Apgar score** is a composite measure of the physical health of an infant shortly after birth. It is assessed at one and five minutes after birth, and is used to predict the infant's chances of survival. Five characteristics of the baby that are easily identifiable – heart rate, respiratory effort, muscle tone, reflex irritability, and color – are assessed on a scale of 0 to 2, with 2 being optimum. The Apgar score is the sum of these scores, with a score of 7 or higher indicating that the infant is in good physical condition, and a score of 10 being perfect. As the five-minute score is generally considered to be a better predictor of survival, it is the score that is reported here.

Less than 1% (232) of birth certificates had no Apgar score recorded.

- 12.9% (8,465) of live births received an Apgar score of 10, and 1.7% (1,115) of infants had low (0-6) Apgar scores (Tables B30 and B31).
- Age and racial breakdowns were consistent with low birthweight percentages; infants born to very young mothers, older mothers, and black mothers received the highest percentages of below normal scores (Tables B30 and B31).

**Table B30. Counts and Percents of Births with Below Normal (0-6) Five-Minute Apgar Scores, by Maternal Age Louisiana, 1997**

Count/Percent	Maternal Age Group						
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 & Older	All Ages
Number	226	341	241	193	95	19	1115
Percent of Live Births	1.9	1.8	1.4	1.7	2.0	2.2	1.7

**Table B31. Counts and Percents of Births  
with Below Normal (0-6) Apgar Scores, by Maternal Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Count/Percent	Maternal Race			
	White	Black	Other	All Races*
Number	389	711	15	1115
Percent of Live Births	1.0	2.6	1.1	1.7

\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

### **Abnormal Conditions of the Newborn**

Abnormal conditions of the newborn are recorded on the birth certificate by checking any of 8 listed conditions, none, or other. More than one condition can be checked on a birth certificate.

- **The two most commonly reported abnormal newborn conditions were assisted ventilation 30 minutes or more** (at a rate of 6.3 per 1,000 live births) **and assisted ventilation less than 30 minutes** (at a rate of 5.4 per 1,000 live births).
- **The third most commonly reported abnormal condition was hyaline membrane disease/respiratory distress syndrome**, at a rate of 4.1 per 1,000 live births.

Table B32 gives detailed counts of abnormal conditions of the newborn by age and race of the mother.

**Table B32. Counts\* of Abnormal Conditions of the Newborn, by Maternal Age and Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Condition	Race	Total	Maternal Age Group													
			Under 15	15	16	17	18	19	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unk.
None	All	62518	267	645	1340	2234	3248	3812	11279	18405	16241	10955	4521	813	37	-
	White	35687	35	179	472	915	1445	1706	4717	9320	10672	7454	2969	498	22	-
	Black	25490	228	461	849	1288	1762	2056	6416	8795	5175	3160	1409	294	13	-
	Other	1341	4	5	19	31	41	50	146	290	394	341	143	21	2	-
Anemia (HCT < 39/HGB < 13)	All	124	2	3	3	3	10	5	24	37	26	22	11	2	-	-
	White	46	-	1	-	1	3	2	7	10	11	11	7	-	-	-
	Black	74	2	2	3	2	7	3	17	27	15	8	3	2	-	-
	Other	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Birth injury	All	62	-	-	-	1	8	2	11	16	13	15	5	2	-	-
	White	45	-	-	-	1	3	2	6	13	10	10	4	2	-	-
	Black	16	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	3	3	4	1	-	-	-
	Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Fetal alcohol syndrome	All	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	-
	White	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
	Black	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hyaline membrane disease/ Respiratory distress syndrome	All	271	3	5	5	6	19	9	44	85	72	48	19	-	-	-
	White	183	2	1	4	3	8	4	20	57	57	34	13	-	-	-
	Black	86	1	4	1	3	11	5	24	28	14	13	6	-	-	-
	Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Meconium aspiration syndrome	All	113	1	-	2	5	4	7	18	32	30	20	12	-	-	-
	White	51	-	-	-	2	-	2	4	18	14	9	6	-	-	-
	Black	58	1	-	2	3	4	5	14	14	14	11	4	-	-	-
	Other	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-

\*This is not an unduplicated count. More than one condition was noted on some birth certificates.  
(Table B32 continues on the next page)



**Table B32. (continued). Counts\* of Abnormal Conditions of the Newborn, by Maternal Age and Race Louisiana, 1997**

Condition	Race	Total	Maternal Age Group													
			Under 15	15	16	17	18	19	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unk.
Assisted ventilation less than 30 minutes	All	359	4	5	8	14	19	23	69	113	79	61	28	5	-	-
	White	205	-	-	4	5	5	11	25	58	58	44	18	2	-	-
	Black	148	4	5	4	9	14	12	44	55	20	15	9	1	-	-
	Other	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	-	-
Assisted ventilation 30 minutes or more	All	418	2	7	9	14	26	27	83	148	82	71	26	6	-	-
	White	218	-	1	5	8	12	11	37	67	45	49	18	2	-	-
	Black	193	2	6	4	6	14	15	45	79	37	19	7	4	-	-
	Other	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	3	1	-	-	-
Seizures	All	55	-	1	1	2	3	2	9	12	14	11	7	2	-	-
	White	29	-	1	1	-	1	1	4	3	7	6	7	2	-	-
	Black	26	-	-	-	2	2	1	5	9	7	5	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	All	2495	21	39	56	109	149	146	499	865	553	370	148	39	-	-
	White	1152	2	11	19	36	61	69	196	365	291	214	71	13	-	-
	Black	1303	19	28	36	72	87	76	299	488	254	147	71	25	-	-
	Other	40	-	-	1	1	1	1	4	12	8	9	6	1	-	-
Unknown	All	111	1	-	-	2	-	3	5	16	24	28	22	9	4	2
	White	82	-	-	-	2	-	2	4	7	17	21	20	7	4	2
	Black	28	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	8	7	7	2	2	-	-
	Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*This is not an unduplicated count. More than one condition was noted on some birth certificates.

### **Congenital Anomalies**

Congenital anomalies are recorded on the birth certificate by checking any of 21 listed anomalies, none, or other. More than one anomaly can be checked on a birth certificate. Because these events occur so infrequently, rates have been calculated for categories of anomalies.

- **There were 630 birth certificates with at least one congenital anomaly reported** (Table B33).
- **The most commonly reported category of congenital anomalies was musculoskeletal/ integumental anomalies** at a rate of 24.1 per 10,000 live births. This includes cleft lip/palate, polydactyly/syndactyly/adactyly, clubfoot, and diaphragmatic hernia, as well as other musculoskeletal/integumental anomalies.
- **The second most commonly reported category was circulatory/respiratory anomalies**, which includes heart malformations, at a rate of 8.9 per 10,000 live births.
- **The third most commonly reported category was urogenital anomalies** at a rate of 8.3 per 10,000 live births. This category includes malformed genitalia and renal agenesis, as well as other urogenital anomalies.

Table B33 gives detailed counts of congenital anomalies reported for births, categorized by maternal age.

<b>Table B33. Counts* of Congenital Anomalies by Type of Anomaly and Maternal Age Louisiana, 1997</b>										
<b>Congenital anomaly</b>	<b>Maternal Age Group</b>									
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Under 15</b>	<b>15-19</b>	<b>20-24</b>	<b>25-29</b>	<b>30-34</b>	<b>35-39</b>	<b>40-44</b>	<b>45 &amp; Older</b>	<b>Unk.</b>
Total	715	7	156	226	155	115	40	16	-	-
Anencephalus	9	-	1	3	3	2	-	-	-	-
Spina bifida/Meningocele	20	-	3	9	1	6	1	-	-	-
Hydrocephalus	13	-	-	5	4	3	-	1	-	-
Microcephalus	7	-	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other central nervous system anomalies	5	-	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
Heart malformations	32	1	2	9	9	6	2	3	-	-
Other circulatory/Respiratory anomalies	27	-	6	10	5	3	2	1	-	-
Rectal atresia/Stenosis	5	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-
Tracheo esophageal fistula/Esophageal atresia	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Omphalocele/Gastroschisis	14	-	11	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other gastrointestinal anomalies	13	-	4	5	1	3	-	-	-	-
Malformed genitalia	16	-	5	5	2	2	2	-	-	-
Renal agenesis	5	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
Other urogenital anomalies	34	-	4	13	11	3	3	-	-	-
Cleft lip/Palate	42	2	5	15	12	5	2	1	-	-
Polydactyly/Syndactyly/Adactyly	36	1	11	10	8	5	1	-	-	-
Club foot	27	1	3	9	8	3	3	-	-	-
Diaphragmatic hernia	5	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Other musculoskeletal/integumental anomalies	49	-	13	14	13	5	3	1	-	-
Down's syndrome	19	-	3	2	-	7	3	4	-	-
Other chromosomal anomalies	14	-	2	2	4	4	1	1	-	-
Other congenital anomalies	321	2	78	102	70	48	17	4	-	-

\*This is not an unduplicated count, More than one congenital anomaly was noted on some birth certificates.  
630 infants had at least one congenital anomaly.

## DELIVERY CHARACTERISTICS: MEDICAL PROCEDURES, COMPLICATIONS, AND FACILITIES

### Obstetric Procedures

The attendant at birth records obstetric procedures on the birth certificate by checking any of 6 procedures performed, none, or other. More than one procedure can be checked on a birth certificate.

- **The most frequently performed obstetric procedure was electronic fetal monitoring**, at a rate of 808.0 per 1,000 mothers who had 1 or more live births during the calendar year (Table B34).
  - **Electronic fetal monitoring was done less often in black mothers than in white mothers**, at a rate of 751.1 per 1,000 black mothers versus 851.1 per 1,000 white mothers, respectively (Table B34).
- **The second most frequently performed procedure was ultrasound**, at a rate of 625.9 per 1,000 mothers who had 1 or more live births during the calendar year (Table B34).
  - **Ultrasound was done less often in black mothers than in white mothers**, at a rate of 539.2 per 1,000 black mothers versus 686.2 per 1,000 white mothers, respectively (Table B34).
- Among the 65,016 women who had 1 or more live births, no associated obstetric procedures were performed in 6,657 cases.
  - **Black mothers were more than twice as likely to have no obstetric procedures performed than white mothers**, at a rate of 159.5 per 1,000 black mothers versus 60.8 per 1,000 white mothers, respectively (Table B34).

**Table B34. Counts and Rates\* of Obstetric Procedures by Maternal Age and Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Procedure	All Ages						All Races**			
	All Races**		White		Black		Teens		35 and Older	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
None	6657	102.4	2245	60.8	4262	159.5	1401	115.6	720	129.6
Electronic Fetal Monitoring	52530	808.0	31418	851.1	20067	751.1	9621	793.8	4313	776.4
Ultrasound	40692	625.9	25330	686.2	14405	539.2	7143	589.4	3445	620.2
Stimulation of Labor	8269	127.2	5018	135.9	3058	114.5	1658	136.8	588	105.9
Induction of Labor	7541	116.0	5098	138.1	2327	87.1	1424	117.5	561	101.0
Tocolysis	563	8.7	362	9.8	190	7.1	105	8.7	42	7.6
Amniocentesis	501	7.7	332	9.0	157	5.9	56	4.6	165	29.7

\*Rate per 1,000 mothers who had 1 or more live births during the calendar year

\*\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

Table B35 gives detailed counts of obstetric procedures reported for births, categorized by maternal age and race.

**Table B35. Counts\* of Obstetric Procedures by Maternal Age and Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Procedure	Race	Maternal Age Group														
		Total	Under 15	15	16	17	18	19	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unk.
None	All	6657	40	93	171	287	370	440	1361	1932	1502	1102	595	119	6	-
	White	2245	2	10	27	48	76	65	226	462	661	535	298	58	3	-
	Black	4262	38	83	144	238	288	374	1127	1437	793	530	274	60	3	-
	Other	150	-	-	-	1	6	1	8	33	48	37	23	1	-	-
Amniocentesis	All	501	4	3	4	6	20	19	52	98	98	84	131	31	3	-
	White	332	-	1	3	4	11	10	29	48	69	59	101	25	1	-
	Black	157	4	2	1	2	8	9	22	50	27	21	27	5	1	-
	Other	12	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	4	3	1	1	-
Electronic fetal monitoring	All	52530	224	540	1118	1835	2719	3185	9397	15617	13759	9220	3636	650	27	-
	White	31418	33	167	426	812	1279	1563	4247	8362	9348	6517	2492	403	16	-
	Black	20067	188	370	678	999	1411	1581	5039	7034	4104	2428	1034	230	10	-
	Other	1045	3	3	14	24	29	41	111	221	307	275	110	17	1	-
Induction of labor	All	7541	22	55	161	280	405	501	1402	2347	1972	1237	473	86	2	-
	White	5098	5	23	78	157	242	289	789	1515	1451	942	343	52	1	-
	Black	2327	17	32	82	122	159	207	602	799	495	268	116	29	1	-
	Other	116	-	-	1	1	4	5	11	33	26	27	14	5	-	-
Stimulation of labor	All	8269	30	74	178	340	521	515	1628	2481	2178	1364	494	92	2	-
	White	5018	6	19	77	183	244	246	769	1378	1504	959	337	64	1	-
	Black	3058	24	55	93	153	269	257	827	1064	620	360	137	25	1	-
	Other	193	-	-	8	4	8	12	32	39	54	45	20	3	-	-
Tocolysis	All	563	3	4	12	18	34	34	102	172	151	93	34	8	-	-
	White	362	-	2	8	8	18	20	56	101	117	61	23	4	-	-
	Black	190	3	2	3	9	15	14	43	65	33	32	10	4	-	-
	Other	11	-	-	1	1	1	-	3	6	1	-	1	-	-	-
Ultrasound	All	40692	154	381	780	1372	2058	2398	6989	11892	10886	7326	2911	511	23	-
	White	25330	31	133	330	664	1071	1273	3471	6630	7573	5257	2026	327	15	-
	Black	14405	119	243	433	686	954	1085	3401	5039	3039	1832	800	169	6	-
	Other	957	4	5	17	22	33	40	117	223	274	237	85	15	2	-
Other	All	947	8	12	29	40	66	65	212	290	220	157	49	11	-	-
	White	508	1	-	4	15	24	26	69	157	140	109	26	6	-	-
	Black	426	7	12	25	25	42	38	142	130	76	46	20	5	-	-
	Other	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	4	2	3	-	-	-
Unknown	All	99	2	-	-	1	2	4	7	11	19	22	22	10	4	2
	White	72	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	5	13	17	19	8	4	2
	Black	27	2	-	-	-	1	2	3	6	6	5	3	2	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*This is not an unduplicated count. More than one procedure was noted on some birth certificates.

65016 women had 1 or more live births during the calendar year.

**Complications of Labor and/or Delivery**

Complications of labor and/or delivery are recorded on the birth certificate by checking any of 15 listed complications, none, or other. More than one complication can be recorded on a birth certificate.

- **The four most commonly reported complications of labor and/or delivery were moderate or heavy meconium** (37.1 per 1,000 mothers), **fetal distress** (30.2), **cephalopelvic disproportion** and **breech/malpresentation** (both were 24.1) (Table B36).
- **Rates varied considerably by race. The rates of moderate or heavy meconium and fetal distress were higher for black mothers** (47.1 and 38.1 per 1,000 black mothers, respectively) than for white mothers (29.9 and 24.4, respectively), while **the rates of cephalopelvic disproportion and breech/malpresentation were higher for white mothers** (28.2 and 27.8, respectively) **than for black mothers** (18.1 and 19.1, respectively) (Table B36).
- Among the 65,016 women who had 1 or more live birth, no complications of labor and/or delivery were recorded in 49,134 cases. **White mothers more frequently reported no complications than black mothers**, with a rate of 761.6 per 1,000 white mothers versus 747.7 per 1,000 black mothers, respectively (Table B36).

**Table B36. Counts\* and Rates\* of Complications of Labor and/or Delivery by Maternal Race and Age Louisiana, 1997**

Complication	All Ages						All Races**			
	All Races**		White		Black		Teens		35 & Older	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
No complication noted	49134	755.7	28114	761.6	19975	747.7	9114	752.0	4237	762.7
Meconium, moderate/heavy	2414	37.1	1104	29.9	1259	47.1	526	43.4	221	39.8
Fetal distress	1962	30.2	899	24.4	1018	38.1	412	34.0	176	31.7
Breech/Malpresentation	1566	24.1	1028	27.8	509	19.1	221	18.2	171	30.8
Cephalopelvic disproportion	1566	24.1	1040	28.2	484	18.1	309	25.5	115	20.7
Premature rupture of membrane (>12 hrs)	914	14.1	432	11.7	459	17.2	195	16.1	74	13.3
Febrile (> 100 degrees F)	826	12.7	458	12.4	350	13.1	214	17.7	31	5.6
Dysfunctional labor	642	9.9	339	9.2	282	10.6	146	12.0	43	7.7
Precipitous labor (<3 hrs)	616	9.5	248	6.7	349	13.1	103	8.5	54	9.7
Abruptio placenta	274	4.2	142	3.8	127	4.8	54	4.5	24	4.3
Prolonged labor (>20 hrs)	229	3.5	127	3.4	98	3.7	57	4.7	15	-
Placenta previa	144	2.2	100	2.7	42	1.6	9	-	26	4.7
Other excessive bleeding	118	1.8	63	1.7	50	1.9	20	1.7	8	-
Cord prolapse	84	1.3	47	1.3	33	1.2	10	-	6	-
Anesthetic complications	30	0.5	16	-	14	-	4	-	2	-
Seizures during labor	22	0.3	6	-	16	-	7	-	-	-

\*This is not an unduplicated count. More than one complication was noted on some birth certificates. 65016 women had 1 or more live births during the calendar year

\*Rate per 1,000 mothers who had 1 or more live births during the calendar year

\*\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

“-“ indicates rate is unstable due to low frequency (<20)

Table B37 gives detailed counts of labor and delivery complications reported for births, categorized by maternal age and race.

**Table B37. Counts\* of Complications of Labor and/or Delivery, by Maternal Age and Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Complication	Race	Total	Maternal Age Group														Unk.
			Under 15	15	16	17	18	19	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older		
No complication noted	All	49134	209	508	1069	1768	2558	3002	8905	14538	12678	8567	3568	645	24		
	White	28114	28	142	373	714	1137	1342	3708	7339	8360	5895	2368	402	14		
	Black	19975	177	361	681	1032	1393	1620	5087	6964	4014	2408	1088	228	9		
	Other	1045	4	5	15	22	28	40	110	235	304	264	112	15	1		
Febrile (> 100 degrees F)	All	826	3	17	22	54	59	59	211	276	191	114	26	5	-		
	White	458	-	4	6	19	23	29	81	150	134	72	18	3	-		
	Black	350	3	13	16	35	34	29	127	124	51	35	8	2	-		
	Other	18	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	2	6	7	-	-	-		
Meconium,moderate/heavy	All	2414	19	31	69	101	139	167	507	725	592	350	196	25	-		
	White	1104	2	5	16	35	42	61	159	294	341	196	99	13	-		
	Black	1259	17	26	53	64	97	104	344	423	231	141	93	10	-		
	Other	51	-	-	-	2	-	2	4	8	20	13	4	2	-		
Premature rupture of membrane (>12 hours)	All	914	8	14	24	29	65	55	187	263	243	139	61	12	1		
	White	432	1	2	6	14	26	24	72	120	131	76	26	6	-		
	Black	459	7	12	18	14	38	30	112	138	106	55	34	6	1		
	Other	23	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	5	6	8	1	-	-		
Abruptio placenta	All	274	1	6	6	12	12	17	53	87	63	46	19	5	-		
	White	142	-	1	4	4	5	8	22	39	35	27	16	3	-		
	Black	127	1	5	2	8	7	9	31	47	26	18	2	2	-		
	Other	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-		
Placenta previa	All	144	-	2	-	2	3	2	9	25	38	46	22	3	1		
	White	100	-	-	-	1	2	1	4	14	29	35	15	2	1		
	Black	42	-	2	-	1	1	1	5	10	8	11	7	1	-		
	Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-		
Other excessive bleeding	All	118	1	1	2	5	4	7	19	32	37	21	6	2	-		
	White	63	-	-	-	2	1	3	6	14	23	15	3	2	-		
	Black	50	1	1	2	3	2	4	12	18	12	5	2	-	-		
	Other	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-		
Seizures during labor	All	22	-	2	-	2	2	1	7	6	7	2	-	-	-		
	White	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	2	-	-	-		
	Black	16	-	2	-	2	2	-	6	5	5	-	-	-	-		
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Precipitous labor (< 3 hours)	All	616	6	6	11	16	29	35	97	198	157	104	46	8	-		
	White	248	-	2	3	4	11	10	30	70	72	47	26	3	-		
	Black	349	6	4	7	12	18	25	66	126	80	49	17	5	-		
	Other	19	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	5	8	3	-	-		
Prolonged labor (> 20 hours)	All	229	2	1	6	10	20	18	55	74	50	33	12	3	-		
	White	127	-	-	5	5	9	10	29	36	33	22	5	2	-		
	Black	98	2	1	1	5	11	8	26	37	16	9	7	1	-		
	Other	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-		
Dysfunctional labor	All	642	5	12	11	25	51	42	141	212	150	91	36	7	-		
	White	339	-	4	5	9	26	17	61	102	96	58	20	2	-		
	Black	282	5	8	6	16	24	24	78	102	51	28	13	5	-		
	Other	21	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	8	3	5	3	-	-		
Breech/malpresentation	All	1566	3	18	19	32	72	77	218	429	431	314	144	25	2		
	White	1028	-	5	11	19	40	42	117	264	310	223	93	19	2		
	Black	509	3	13	8	13	30	34	98	158	111	85	48	6	-		
	Other	29	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	7	10	6	3	-	-		
Cephalopelvic disproportion	All	1566	12	13	31	53	88	112	297	456	431	255	96	19	-		
	White	1040	2	6	13	27	58	61	165	282	312	195	73	11	-		
	Black	484	10	7	18	26	29	49	129	166	102	53	18	6	-		
	Other	42	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	8	17	7	5	2	-		

\*This is not an unduplicated count. More than one complication was noted on some birth certificates. 65016 women had 1 or more live births during the calendar year.

(Table B37 continues on the next page)

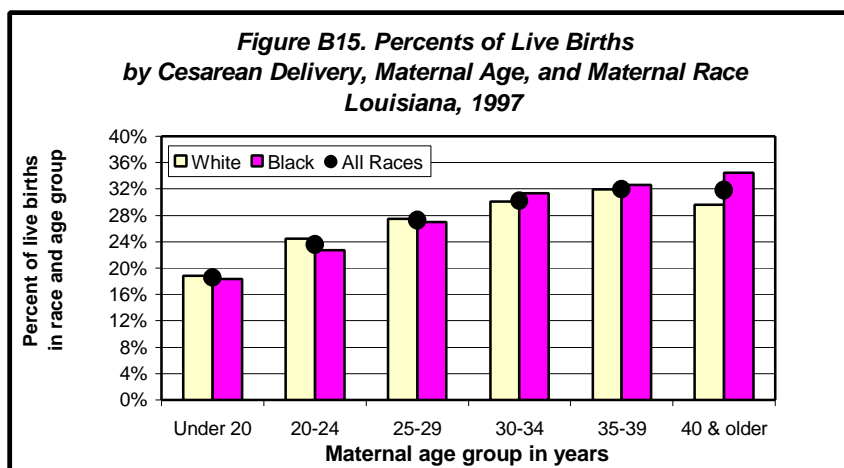
**Table B37. Counts\* of Complications of Labor and/or Delivery, by Maternal Age and Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Complication	Race	Total	Maternal Age Group													
			Under 15	15	16	17	18	19	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 & Older	Unk.
Cord prolapse	All	84	-	-	-	3	6	1	10	24	27	17	4	2	-	-
	White	47	-	-	-	2	3	1	6	12	14	12	2	1	-	-
	Black	33	-	-	-	1	3	-	4	11	10	5	2	1	-	-
	Other	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Anesthetic complications	All	30	-	-	-	-	2	2	4	9	7	8	1	1	-	-
	White	16	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	5	4	-	1	-	-
	Black	14	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	5	2	4	1	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fetal distress	All	1962	10	27	53	93	109	120	402	604	449	321	139	35	2	-
	White	899	-	5	14	36	45	57	157	255	235	167	70	13	2	-
	Black	1018	10	22	38	57	63	61	241	337	204	140	64	22	-	-
	Other	45	-	-	1	-	1	2	4	12	10	14	5	-	-	-
Other	All	7907	34	81	176	298	413	465	1433	2389	2057	1372	521	95	6	-
	White	4390	6	25	67	127	152	212	583	1211	1299	895	350	44	2	-
	Black	3350	28	56	105	162	252	250	825	1143	715	440	150	46	3	-
	Other	167	-	-	4	9	9	3	25	35	43	37	21	5	1	-
Unknown	All	104	2	-	2	-	1	4	7	16	24	25	17	7	4	2
	White	70	1	-	-	-	1	2	3	6	16	18	15	5	4	2
	Black	34	1	-	2	-	-	2	4	10	8	7	2	2	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

\*This is not an unduplicated count. More than one complication was noted on some birth certificates. 65016 women had 1 or more live births during the calendar year.

**Method of Delivery**

- 25.4% of all live births in Louisiana were cesarean deliveries (Table B38), compared with 20.8% for the United States.
- Final 1997 data collected by the National Center for Health Statistics report that Louisiana had the second highest rate of cesarean deliveries in the country.
- Cesarean deliveries occurred more frequently among white mothers than among black mothers, at 26.5% versus 24.2% of live births, respectively (Figure B15, Table B38).
- Use of cesarean deliveries increased with age; black mothers aged 40 and older had the highest use, at 34.4% of live births (Figure B15, Table B38).



<b>Table B38. Percents of Live Births by Cesarean Delivery, Maternal Age, and Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997</b>							
Maternal Race	Maternal Age Group						All Ages
	Under 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40 & Older	
White	18.9	24.4	27.5	30.1	31.9	29.6	26.5
Black	18.4	22.7	27.0	31.3	32.6	34.4	24.2
All Races*	18.5	23.5	27.2	30.2	31.9	31.8	25.4

\*All Races\* includes white, black, and other

Table B39 gives detailed counts of method of delivery by race and age group among the Louisiana residents who gave birth.



**Table B39. Counts\* of Method of Delivery by Maternal Age and Race  
Louisiana, 1997**

Method	Race	Total	Maternal Age Group													
			LT 15	15	16	17	18	19	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 +	Unk.
Vaginal	All	42551	214	507	1005	1655	2394	2741	8302	13006	10759	6914	2824	511	21	-
	White	23317	23	132	356	657	1014	1186	3345	6297	6856	4646	1827	312	11	-
	Black	18278	187	371	636	974	1351	1517	4849	6494	3620	2032	898	188	10	-
	Other	956	4	4	13	24	29	38	108	215	283	236	99	11	-	-
Vaginal/Forceps	All	2953	12	43	74	147	191	228	683	801	762	482	174	39	-	-
	White	2101	3	19	34	83	106	138	380	552	619	389	130	28	-	-
	Black	805	9	24	39	63	84	87	297	240	130	82	37	10	-	-
	Other	47	-	-	1	1	1	3	6	9	13	11	7	1	-	-
Vaginal/Forceps & Vacuum	All	92	1	1	2	4	6	6	19	30	25	10	7	-	-	-
	White	74	1	-	1	2	2	5	10	28	21	8	6	-	-	-
	Black	17	-	1	-	2	4	1	8	2	4	2	1	-	-	-
	Other	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vaginal/Vacuum	All	1447	9	15	47	68	97	131	358	462	331	213	64	10	-	-
	White	860	-	6	17	27	54	63	167	259	235	148	45	6	-	-
	Black	554	9	8	30	41	42	67	188	194	85	60	16	2	-	-
	Other	33	-	1	-	-	1	1	3	9	11	5	3	2	-	-
Vaginal birth after previous c-section	All	901	-	-	9	15	29	36	89	300	233	195	68	15	1	-
	White	429	-	-	1	3	7	5	16	105	143	116	39	10	-	-
	Black	457	-	-	8	12	22	30	72	192	87	74	26	5	1	-
	Other	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	3	5	3	-	-	-
Vaginal birth after previous c-section/ forceps	All	50	-	-	1	1	1	-	3	16	17	9	5	-	-	-
	White	33	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	9	13	6	4	-	-	-
	Black	16	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	7	4	2	1	-	-	-
	Other	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Vaginal birth after previous c-section/ Forceps/Vacuum	All	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
	White	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
	Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vaginal birth after previous c-section/ Vacuum	All	36	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	8	9	10	4	-	-	-
	White	21	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	6	5	3	-	-	-
	Black	13	-	-	-	-	1	3	4	2	3	3	1	-	-	-
	Other	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Primary c-section	All	9751	52	109	225	379	543	621	1877	2830	2507	1626	699	153	7	-
	White	5567	10	29	74	154	255	307	819	1538	1660	1032	422	83	3	-
	Black	3981	42	80	147	220	278	312	1037	1252	786	540	258	64	2	-
	Other	203	-	-	4	5	10	2	21	40	61	54	19	6	2	-
Repeat c-section	All	6467	-	1	8	36	88	142	275	1638	1960	1715	767	108	4	-
	White	4033	-	-	2	12	33	56	103	811	1298	1222	535	60	4	-
	Black	2338	-	1	6	24	54	85	170	807	633	469	214	45	-	-
	Other	96	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	20	29	24	18	3	-	-
Unknown	All	765	4	12	34	50	62	59	217	216	147	105	57	12	5	2
	White	476	2	5	10	25	40	29	109	130	105	69	45	9	5	2
	Black	258	2	7	23	24	22	25	101	78	39	24	11	3	-	-
	Other	31	-	-	1	1	-	5	7	8	3	12	1	-	-	-

\*65016 Women had 1 or more live births during the calendar year.

**Attendant at Birth**

The vast majority of births took place in hospitals and were attended by physicians. There were no racial differences in either of these delivery characteristics (Tables B40 and B41).

<b>Table B40. Counts and Percents of Birthing Facilities by Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997</b>						
<b>Birthing Facility</b>	<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>		<b>All Races*</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
In Hospital	37784	99.6	26704	99.5	65883	99.5
Out of Hospital	159	0.4	139	0.5	305	0.5

\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other

<b>Table B41. Counts and Percents of Birth Attendants by Maternal Race Louisiana, 1997</b>						
<b>Birth Attendant</b>	<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>		<b>All Races**</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Physician	37002	98.8	26468	97.6	64830	98.3
Midwife	342	0.9	420	1.5	785	1.2
Other*	94	0.3	227	0.8	332	0.5

\*Includes unclassifiable birth attendant data

\*\*"All Races" includes white, black, and other